

Byelorussia declares sovereignty

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Byelorussian republic Friday declared that its law takes precedence over Soviet law, and that it has the right to its own armed forces, the official TASS news agency said. Byelorussia is considered to be among the least reform-minded of the Soviet republics, but it nevertheless followed Russia, the Ukraine and the Baltic republics in declaring its sovereignty. While the Byelorussian Supreme Soviet was approving its declaration of sovereignty, the presidents of the three Baltic republics, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, were preparing to meet in Latvia to discuss their future relations with the Soviet Union. "It was decided that the republic has the right to its own military forces, its interior forces, its organs of state and public security, under the control of the republic's Supreme Soviet," TASS reported. "Byelorussia establishes the superiority of the constitution and laws of the republic on its territory and its independence in external relations," TASS said.

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Um Jihad urges unity in intifada

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The widow of assassinated Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Um Jihad) called in a rare interview Friday for unity among leaders of the nearly 32-month-old uprising. "It is necessary to forge unity between all factions," Intisar Al Wazir (Um Jihad) told Jerusalem's Al Nadwa Arabic weekly. Her husband, killed in Tunis in 1988, was deputy to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and widely regarded as one of the leading figures behind the uprising. "We must leave aside ideological differences to develop the uprising and to enlarge the unified leadership," said Um Jihad, herself a member of the Fatah Central Committee. Fatah, the Popular Front, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestine Communist Party comprise the unified leadership of the uprising which steers the revolt in the occupied territories. The fundamentalist Hamas movement, which opposes the PLO's peace overtures to Israel, runs its own organisation of uprising activists independent of the unified leadership.

France releases Lebanese guerrillas

PARIS (R) — Lebanese guerrilla Anis Naccache and four accomplices, jailed after trying to kill former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980, were granted a presidential pardon by France Friday, the Justice Ministry said. The five men were immediately put on an Iran Air plane bound for Tehran, airport sources added. The ministry said the five, who had served 10 years of their jail sentences, were pardoned by President Francois Mitterrand and had been expelled. Naccache was flown by helicopter from Fresnes prison outside Paris to Orly airport and hustled onto a scheduled Iran Air flight by policemen ahead of other passengers.

Andreotti averts cabinet collapse

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti pulled his one-year-old government back from the brink of collapse Friday, by appointing five new ministers to replace members of his party who resigned over a broadcasting bill. He was left facing two parliamentary confidence votes — one on his new cabinet and a second on amendments to the broadcasting bill which forced the reshuffle — but appeared almost certain to win them. Both votes were expected to be held Saturday.

Disco bombing suspect arrested

WEST BERLIN (AP) — Authorities arrested a suspect in the 1986 bombing of a West Berlin discotheque frequented by U.S. soldiers that led to the U.S. air raid on Libya, officials said Friday. A man, described only as being of an Arab nationality, was arrested on Wednesday, said Werner Thronicker, a spokesman for the West Berlin interior ministry. Authorities searched six apartments and a jail cell and seized written materials they said could be of use to the investigation, he said. He would not identify the man or release any other details.

SLA threatens to shell civilians

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — A pro-Israeli militia commander threatened Friday to shell civilians in South Lebanon if fighting among two Lebanese groups spills into territory he controls. General Antoine Lahd of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) told Visnews world television news agency he would retaliate if pro-Israeli Hizbollah (Party of God) and Syrian-backed Amal shelled the buffer strip patrolled by his men and Israeli soldiers. "By shelling civilians, Hizbollah has given a new dimension to events in the south... we used to shell their military positions but now we might hit their civilians," Lahd said. His 3,000-strong militia and some 1,000 Israeli soldiers patrol the strip carved out by the Jewish state in 1985. Israeli and SLA gunners have occasionally opened fire on the town of Tyre for the Israeli army's 1.5 million Shi'ite community.

Doe hangs on

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — President Samuel Doe will never resign and believes his forces can defeat rebels attacking the capital in the next two weeks, a spokesman said Friday. The spokesman, in a radio telephone call to the BBC in London, said Doe's forces had retaken much of Bushrod Island north to the capital in a counterattack Friday. There was no way to immediately verify the spokesman's comments. The spokesman said Doe himself had driven across the bridge separating the city from the island to visit the front. He said 48 rebels died in the fighting, but no government troops were killed. The spokesman also denied rebels had forced the closure of Spriggs-Payne airfield, the city's last link with the outside world since rebels surrounded the capital in recent fighting. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the civil war, a U.N. office said Friday. Both sides are accused of killing civilians.

Expatriate remittances rising, certain sectors growing, better import/export balance achieved, reserves healthy

Economy faring well, debt plan under study — Jardaneh

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Against a backdrop of definite indicators of positive economic performance after a period of stagnation, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank are working on a comprehensive plan to manage Jordan's foreign debts, involving conversion of part of those debts to investments, repayment in kind, and buy-back of commercial debts at a discounted rate, according to the finance minister, Basel Jardaneh.

Despite a drawback in the area of rock phosphate exports to Eastern Europe, "our economic performance in the first six months of 1990 has been good," Jardaneh told reporters Friday. Presenting an evaluation of the situation as seen by the Ministry of Finance at an informal briefing for the press, the minister pointed out that the dinar has stabilised after over 18 months of uncertainty and fluctuation, and said that the foreign exchange reserves were healthy, certain important sectors have registered growth in the first six months of the year, and a better balance has

been achieved between imports and exports. Another major indicator, the minister said, is a rise in expatriate remittances, one of Jordan's major foreign exchange sources but which registered a sharp drop in 1988 and 1989. The Kingdom's gross reserves of foreign exchange is expected to be around \$800 million by the end of the year, the minister said.

According to Jardaneh, in certain aspects the Kingdom's situation today were as good as in 1985 or 1986. Despite a setback in exports of phosphate rocks to Eastern Europe, the gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to register a growth of not less than two per cent in real terms during the year, he said. "The GDP growth in constant terms is not affected very much by the devaluation of the dinar because it is based on a quantum approach," the minister told the briefing, arranged by the Ministry of Information.

Assessment
The minister provided a sector-by-sector assessment of the economy's performance during the first six months of 1990 as compared to the corresponding period of 1989:



Basel Jardaneh

pared to the corresponding period of 1989:

— Construction: Consumption of cement has gone up by 3.5 per cent compared with a decline of 6.5 per cent. This rise indicates an increase in construction activity, Jardaneh said. "This sector will show a good increase by the end of the year," he said.

— Agriculture: reports of prices and figures available from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate a growth of 10 per cent in

real terms. — Expatriate remittances: Although no definite official figures are available yet, the minister said, "at least two major banks in the country report a growth in expatriate remittances." While one bank has registered an increase of about 43 per cent, another has reported a 35-per-cent increase, he said.

"It is a very encouraging development and we hope the trend will continue," he said. The minister expects the total expatriate remittances to be in the region of \$800 million during 1990, compared with \$640 million in 1989. This projected increase, according to Jardaneh, is a direct result of "regaining confidence in the performance of the national economy and the stabilisation of the dinar."

"The balance of services in the past year has shown a deterioration and we hope to see that the downward trend is reversed and we will have an improvement as of this year," Jardaneh said. — Bank deposits: Deposits in foreign currency from the private

(Continued on page 5)

Kaifu arrives Aug. 21

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu arrives in Amman Aug. 21 on a two-day official visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other officials on the political situation in the Middle East and Jordanian-Japanese relations.

Kaifu's visit, the first by a Japanese prime minister to Jordan, aims at further enhancing "the friendly and cooperative relations with Jordan and expressing Japan's support for the Kingdom, the key country for peace and prosperity in the Middle East," according to a spokesman for the Japanese embassy here.

"Despite their brief history, relations between Japan and Jordan have expanded rapidly in a spectrum of political, economic, cultural and other spheres," the spokesman said. According to the embassy spokesman, "although Jordan is not the largest recipient of Japan's official development aid among the countries of the Middle East, (the Kingdom) ranks by far the first in the Middle East in terms of per capita amount."

Japan has also been a regular and major donor of aid to the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Tokyo has repeatedly condemned Israel's arbitrary practices against the Palestinians in its efforts to quell the 31-month-old uprising in the occupied territories. Jordan will present a comprehensive proposal for aid from Japan during Kaifu's visit, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh said Friday. "We are very grateful to the Japanese government for their past assistance," he said. "They have been very generous and have also co-financed World Bank loans to Jordan," he said.

Tokyo extended a \$300 million long-term development loan to Jordan in 1987. Part of the loan was used for development projects in the Jordan

(Continued on page 5)

Princess Aysheh weds

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Aysheh Bint Al Hussein was wed Thursday to Zaid Sa'duddin Jumaa after an engagement that lasted seven months.

The Princess, the third of His Majesty King Hussein's daughters to be married, was engaged to Zaid Jumaa, who works at the Central Bank of Jordan, in December 1989.

According to a Royal Court announcement, the wedding ceremony was held at Zahran Palace and attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mhailan and the bridegroom's family members.

Prince Talal's fiancée

On Thursday, the Royal Palace released information on His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Mohammad's fiancée on the occasion of Prince Talal's birthday.

His fiancée Ghaida' Hani Mohammad Salam works as a journalist in London. She worked at the Financial Times and the Sunday Times in the field of political and financial news and wrote political analyses on the Middle East. She also worked as a reporter in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay and for Reuters in Beirut, Lebanon and at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London as a researcher, production manager and supervisor of press conference coverage.

Ghaida' Salam is a graduate from Georgetown University, Washington, and has won several academic awards. She speaks Arabic, English, French and Spanish fluently.



Her Royal Highness Princess Aysheh Bint Al Hussein with her husband Zaid Sa'duddin Jumaa (Petra photo)



His Royal Highness Prince Talal with his fiancée Ghaida' Hani

Egyptian team arrives to attend panel meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki arrived in Amman Friday leading an official delegation on a three-day visit to the Kingdom to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which began Saturday.

Sedki and the accompanying delegation were received at Queen Alia airport by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Cabinet members and senior government and military officials.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival, Sedki underlined the achievements of the higher committee in promoting and bolstering relations between Jordan and Egypt.

He said the committee would work more on developing and enhancing bilateral relations.

In an answer to a question on the result of Egyptian efforts to settle the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, he said the next few days "will witness the return of relations between the two countries normal." He said he did not know anything about reports that Iraq has set conditions for settling the dispute with Kuwait.

Badran affirmed the importance of such as the Jordanian-Egyptian meetings and said the two sides would work seriously to promote and bolster relations between the two countries.

He said the talks would deal with current Arab issues and emphasized that the meetings will take place within the context of the joint committee and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

Jordan, Badran said, will work on implementing agreements and the conditions concerning employment of Egyptians in Jordan.

The Egyptian delegation includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and the ministers of economy and foreign trade, education and labour and the state minister at the prime ministry, the minister of state for international cooperation and several advisors and officials.

The Jordanian side to the meetings will include the minister of interior, the foreign minister, the ministers of supply, finance, trade and industry, labour, agriculture, planning, education and higher education and a number of specialists.

The agenda of the meetings were finalised Friday by Minister of Trade and Industry Ziad Fariz on the Jordanian side and by Minister of State for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah for the Egyptian side.

The agenda include recommendations on developing relations between the two countries.

U.S. Senate votes sanctions on Baghdad

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate voted Friday to slap harsh economic sanctions on Iraq, including an end to the \$1.2 billion in loan guarantees Baghdad now receives to buy American farm and commercial products.

The 80-16 vote came on an amendment to the 1990 farm bill offered by Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato. It was the

latest sign of congressional worry over Iraq's increasing military might in the volatile Middle East.

Senators underscored the action a short time later by killing, 57-38, an attempt by farm-state colleagues to water down the sanctions and avoid the loss of a \$1-billion market for wheat, rice and other commodities.

(Continued on page 3)

Jerash Festival concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ninth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts ended Friday at the ancient Greco-Roman city. The 16-day festival, which was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor, included performances, folkloric troupes from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries, poetry reading by Jordanian and Arab poets, concerts and plays, as well as exhibitions of plastic art, photography, traditional handicrafts and books. Although the 1990 Jerash Festival was scaled down in terms of international participation it was another landmark in Jordan's efforts to present its artistic and cultural standards and traditions to the outside world.

The idea of holding the Jerash Festival was put on by Queen Noor in 1981 with the aim of preserving and enhancing the Jordanian culture. In response to Her Majesty's call several professors, students and employees of Yarmouk University formed a committee to organise the festival, thus bringing into existence the first Jerash Festival in 1981.

The choice of Jerash as the forum for this event stemmed from its central location, accessible to all Jordanians in all parts of the Kingdom. Furthermore Jerash offers theatres and venues suitable for the various activities and its archaeological setting would serve the purpose of the event. The Festival gradually increased the volume of international participation after it included local activities in its first year.

The festival this year witnessed good attendance from the public.

Israel plans will make Jews majority in Arab Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel is planning major housing construction for Jews in Arab Jerusalem that would make Palestinians a minority in the Holy City.

City officials say nearly 20,000 Jews that would house 70,000 Jews are to be built in Arab Jerusalem.

The influx would end the Palestinian majority in the city, now standing at 150,000 Arabs to 120,000 Jews.

Officials of the Israeli-run municipality said Thursday at least 12,000 of 15,000 houses planned for Jews in north Jerusalem would be built on land occupied in the 1967 war.

"Fifteen thousand housing units in the Jewish sector are on the drawing boards. The majority are in neighbourhoods across what used to be the green line (border)," said Bonnie Boxer, spokeswoman for the municipality.

She said city engineers are preparing plans for a further 7,500 units to be built in two stages in the south of the city, also on land occupied and unilaterally annexed to Israel.

Israel expanded the boundaries of the city after occupying it, incorporating empty land later used or allocated for Jewish housing.

"In five years time, all vacant land in north-east Jerusalem will be filled by Jews and then the 150,000 Arabs will be outnumbered by 180,000 to 190,000 Jews," said an Israeli official who asked not to be identified.

The official said the city had been trying to rush the plans through since March when U.S. President George Bush objected to Soviet Jewish immigrants settling in Arab Jerusalem.

Construction of the first stage of 8,000 housing units for Jews in the Pisgat Ze'ev east neighbourhood, beside West Bank villages in north Jerusalem, started last March.

Municipal officials say work could start soon on 2,200 apartments that would become the Rehov Shufat neighbourhood to house religious Jews from West Jerusalem and immigrants.

Boxer said the municipality was trying to rush plans for the new neighbourhoods through the interior ministry,

using a law designed to speed approval of housing projects.

The new law, passed because of a growing housing crisis created by the influx of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews, cuts through the bureaucracy by combining local and regional planning committee approval for projects of at least 200 units.

"They want to Judaize the city by establishing facts on the ground. They think through that they can prevent the city from returning to Arab sovereignty," said Yousef Khoury, an engineer who heads an Arab organisation trying to promote housing for Arabs in Jerusalem.

Amir Cheshin, adviser on Arab affairs to the Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, told Reuters recently that some 30,000 housing units had been built for Jews in Arab Jerusalem in the last 23 years.

Boxer said she was not aware of any Arab housing projects built with municipal help other than a small complex erected in the 1970s in Beit Hanina neighbourhood. Palestinians say housing plans for Jews are being approved faster than ever, while plans for some Arab neighbourhoods have been under study since 1967.

Municipal plans to build 18,000 housing units for Arabs in Arab Jerusalem were scrapped by the interior ministry before they were completed, Boxer said.

She said the ministry also objected to a reduced plan to build 12,000 housing units for Arabs and are now working on a proposal for 7,500. If that plan was approved, further steps would be needed before construction could start.

'Tent camps'

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai Friday suggested housing thousands of new Soviet immigrants in tent camps like those used for Jews arriving in the 1950s.

Modai's remark on Israel army radio immediately drew criticism from an official of the Jewish Agency, the quasi-government body responsible for settling the thousands of new immigrants.

The finance minister, who has opposed moves to bring prefabricated housing for the new immigrants, noted that the Soviets did not have good housing in their homeland and should not expect it in Israel.

"So why can't we talk about housing conditions that are temporary and difficult, even conditions that are similar to those of the early '50s? What is wrong with this?" he asked.

"It is permissible and we must talk about temporary housing up to the point of army camps," he added.

Meir Shitreet, the treasurer of the Jewish Agency, told army radio that putting the new immigrants in any type of temporary housing would be a mistake, noting that the 1950s tent camps were a failure.

"The tents were a hothouse of social ills, of crime, of social neglect," said Shitreet, who lived in a tent camp as a new immigrant from Morocco more than 30 years ago.

He was referring in part to the lingering animosity between Sephardic Jews from the Middle East and Ashkenazi Jews from Europe and the United States. Most immigrants in the 1950s were Sephardim, and they accused the ruling Ashkenazi elite of arrogance and indifference for placing them in tent camps.

Subsidies for the immigrants have driven up rents, and Israelis have set up several dozen of their own tent camps to protest being driven out of their homes by the high costs.

Israeli-Soviet cooperation

The highest ranking Soviet official to visit Israel in more than two decades has predicted that economic cooperation between the two countries was set to take off.

Vladimir Malkevich, president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told reporters Moscow had endorsed moves towards cooperation between the Soviet and Israeli chambers of commerce.

"This is normal and correct... we have received the approval of the highest ranks in the Soviet government," Malkevich said.

But he added that the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories could jeopardise relations.



A homeless Israeli boy twirls a soccer ball in front of his tent home in a park opposite the Knesset (Parliament) as other homeless Israelis and family members relax in the shade.

Thorny issues to figure high at OIC meeting in Cairo

By Mohammad Ibrahim
The Associated Press

JEDDAH — The protection of Islam's holy shrines at Mecca and Medina, an agenda item proposed by Iran, is expected to be one of the difficult issues at the annual Islamic Conference of Ministers which opens in Cairo next Tuesday.

Sources at the Jeddah-based 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), speaking on condition of anonymity, said the issue will likely trigger heated discussions, especially between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Iran has demanded that Mecca and Medina, which house Islam's holiest shrines, be turned over to an international supervisory board.

Tehran's stance, coupled with determination to turn the annual pilgrimage into a political forum, has over the years sparked confrontation at the Hajj between the Iranian pilgrimage contingent and the Saudi security.

In 1987, 402 mostly Iranian pilgrims died in clashes with Saudi security forces.

Iran has boycotted the Islamic foreign ministers conference since 1988, when the Saudis gained OIC backing for their demand for pilgrimage quotas at the Hajj. Iran has also since boycotted the Hajj.

But Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has confirmed his country's participation at the Cairo conference expected to last until Aug. 4, though he has indicated it would be at the level of under-secretary.

Another knotty issue facing the Islamic foreign ministers is Kashmir, put on the agenda by Pakistan.

Pakistan is a ranking member of the OIC and seeks to enlist massive support from the Muslim World against India over Kashmir that threatens a fresh war in the subcontinent.

Most of the OIC members enjoy friendly ties with New Delhi, though they have condemned police crackdowns from predominantly Hindu India on the Muslim minority of Kashmir.

There are more than 70 political, economic, social and cultural items on the agenda. The OIC is the political umbrella for the world's estimated one billion Muslims.

Senior officials from member states are to meet in Cairo as of Saturday to finalise the agenda.

OIC staff led by Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid is already in the Egyptian capital to prepare for the meeting, which falls just months before the sixth Islamic summit to be held in Dakar, Senegal, early next year.

The OIC holds its foreign ministers conferences annually, but the summits are convened once every three years.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whose country was ostracised by the OIC for six years after its 1979 treaty with Israel, will inaugurate the foreign ministers conference Tuesday.

The sources declined to say if the dispute over oil, border lines and loans between Iraq and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates will be on the agenda.

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The sources declined to say if the dispute over oil, border lines and loans between Iraq and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates will be on the agenda.

Mubarak, the chief mediator in the Gulf dispute, has reportedly pressed for excluding the item.

The OIC Thursday issued a statement asking Kuwait and Iraq to settle their differences peacefully.

The influx of Soviet Jews into Israel is another main item on the ministers' agenda. The OIC, established in 1969 after the case of arson at the Al Aqsa Mosque, has always considered Palestine and Jerusalem as the first and foremost cause of the Islamic Nation.

According to the sources, the conference will discuss means of supporting the Palestinian struggle to establish a homeland and ways of aiding the uprising by the 1.7 million inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is expected to attend the opening session.

Assad, Hrawi discuss Lebanon peace effort

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi made a surprise visit to Damascus Thursday and had talks with President Hafiz Al Assad on the latest developments in Lebanon, officials said Friday.

They said the talks dealt with the Lebanese government's plan to implement the Taif agreement and extend its authority over all Lebanon. The sources said Assad confirmed his support for the plan.

The Taif pact grants Lebanon's Muslim majority an equal political voice to that of the Christians and envisages the redeployment of Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

The previously unannounced visit came after Arab League envoy Lakhtar Ibrahim announced in Beirut that rebel General Michel Aoun had rejected a new Arab-sponsored peace initiative to end Lebanon's

civil war.

Under the proposed initiative, Aoun's 15,000 troops and their rival Lebanese Forces (LF) Christian militia would withdraw from areas they control in east Beirut and hand over to soldiers of Hrawi's internationally-recognised government.

In Beirut, a presidential palace statement said Syria's Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaf attended the Assad-Hrawi talks.

The statement said they discussed battles in South Lebanon between fighters of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and the Syrian-backed Amal.

They confirmed Assad's full support for any action taken by Hrawi "to extend the Lebanese administration's authority, consolidate security and achieve stability" across Lebanon.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemenis to vote on new constitution

ABU DHABI (R) — Yemen has set Nov. 30 as the date for a referendum on its new unity constitution, the speaker of the parliament was quoted Friday as saying. "The parliament is currently studying the constitution, which will be put to a referendum on November 30," Yassin Said Nouman told the Abu Dhabi-based Al Ittihad newspaper. He said parliament, which groups deputies from the North and South, would continue meeting till mid-August to draft new laws. North and South Yemen merged on May 22, ending 30 years of separation.

Turkey cancels NATO exercises

ANKARA (R) — NATO-member Turkey has cancelled the Western alliance's military exercises planned for September in its rebel-hit southeast, a military spokesman said Friday. "An exercise in that region could be misinterpreted," the spokesman said. A Foreign Ministry statement said NATO's request that the Ardour Exchange-90 exercises either be cancelled or moved to a location outside Turkey had been accepted. "It said they had been due to take place east of the Euphrates River where rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) have been fighting for independence since 1984. Nearly 2,500 people have been killed in the region where Turkey deploys some 60,000 army troops and elite para-military gendarme commandos. The exercises would have involved some 2,000 NATO troops of Allied Mobile Force (AMF), military sources said.

Gunmen wound 2 policemen in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded two policemen in the exclusive south Cairo suburb of Maadi early Friday, a security source said. He told Reuters police have launched a hunt for the assailants, who fired on a checkpoint from a speeding car. Attacks on police in the Egyptian capital are rare, particularly in the Maadi area where large villas and luxury flats are occupied mainly by foreign residents, many of them from the United States. The security source said three or four men took part in the attack. Roadblocks had been set up on major highways in an effort to prevent them fleeing the capital. The residence of the Israeli ambassador to Egypt is located in Maadi and there is a synagogue in the area. The tree-lined avenues are regularly patrolled by armed police while machine-gun-toting central security force troops guard foreign embassies and diplomats' homes. There have been sporadic outbreaks of street violence, mainly involving Muslim fundamentalist demonstrators, in Cairo but use of firearms against police is uncommon.

Skipper in 'Libyan guns for IRA' case held

DUBLIN (R) — Irish police Friday arrested a ship's captain who jumped bail in France after being charged with carrying 150 tonnes of arms and explosives from Libya for the guerrilla Irish Republican Army (IRA). Adrian Hopkins, Irish master of the Panama-registered Eklund II, vanished after being conditionally freed from a French jail on July 20. He has been awaiting trial since his arms-laden ship was stopped in French waters in October 1987. Police said Hopkins, 51, was arrested in a house in Limerick, 190 kilometres from Dublin. French prosecutors had appealed against a magistrate's decision to release him.

De Michellis visits Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Italy's Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, president of the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers, arrived in Ankara Friday for a three-day visit. His talks with his Turkish counterpart Ali Bozer were expected to focus on the Turkish and Cypriot applications for full EC membership. Foreign Ministry officials said Turkey says the Cypriot application made without the consent of the island's Turkish Cypriot community living in the self-declared Turkish republic of north Cyprus recognised only by Turkey, is invalid. De Michelis was to meet Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut later Friday and spend Saturday in Istanbul before leaving Sunday.

Freedom of navigation in Gulf 'important to U.S.'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — American Ambassador-designate to Kuwait Edward Gnehm has told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the "longstanding policy" of the United States in the Gulf region has been "defending the freedom of navigation in international waters and ensuring the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz."

And Kuwait, he said, has provided "significant support" for that policy.

In response to the committee's questions during a confirmation hearing on his nomination Wednesday, Gnehm gave his assessment of Iraq's recent words and actions in the region. The United States, he said, was "deeply concerned" about Iraq's intentions in the Gulf.

(The following day, deputy State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said that there appeared to be some movement toward a "diplomatic dialogue which would defuse the tensions in the Gulf.")

"There is no question about Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's intentions as he stated them himself and his foreign minister put in writing," Gnehm said, in refer-

ence to a letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to the Arab League on the conflict between the two neighbouring states and in the wake of press reports about Iraqi troop concentrations on the Kuwaiti border.

Gnehm, who was deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs when the White House announced his nomination, appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee two days after news reports appeared about the military buildup on the Iraqi Kuwaiti border.

Asked by acting Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan (Democrat of New York) about the reports of Iraqi troop movements, Gnehm confirmed that there have been movements of Iraqi forces in the south near the Kuwaiti border.

Gnehm added: "This is a really incredible government position to say that it will use force if it has to accomplish its ends, when, in fact, it is a member of the U.N.... when, in fact, it is a member of the Arab League.... Where it is committed as a member of those organisations to a peaceful resolution of this issue... they are

merely trying to intimidate a small country."

Recent developments in the region have not changed the long-standing U.S. policy of maintaining open waterways and the steady flow of oil from the Gulf region, Gnehm said, emphasising that a steady flow of oil at moderate prices is essential not only to the United States and to Kuwait but to oil dependent world economies.

Asked if the United States has given any thought to taking the matter up with the United Nations Security Council, Gnehm said "a very likely scenario... what we are looking toward right at the present — is that the Arab League itself is most concerned with the issue and (is) involved in a very significant and active mediation effort to try and resolve it peacefully."

Asked how American forces are now deployed in the Gulf, Gnehm, who was deputy assistant secretary of defence for Near Eastern and southeast Asian affairs during the Iran-Iraq war, said the United States now has, as it did in the late 1940s, one Navy flagship and five other ships

monitoring the situation there.

Questioned on the reasons for the reflagging of Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war, Gnehm said that the reflagging of Kuwaiti oil tankers was done "out of a mutuality of interests... not necessarily as a favour by one country to the other."

Asserting that only the United States has been willing and able to see that Kuwait's borders are respected, Moynihan asked for an explanation of why Kuwait has sided with the United States in only two of the 16 principal votes taken in the last United Nations session.

"Of course we do have differences with the Kuwaitis," Gnehm responded. But he declined to characterise the Kuwaiti voting pattern as hostile. Gnehm said the voting patterns of many countries in the United Nations were also "not with us" out of a difference in views.

Gnehm pointed out that the outcome of issues in the United Nations is also often determined by the wording of issues, by the procedural votes on how to handle an issue, by whether a country

abstains from voting. "It is the support you get from a country that is often more important than the vote on an issue," he said.

Asked what progress toward multi-party democracy Kuwait was making, Gnehm said Kuwait "probably has the best parliamentary experience of all the countries in the region." He said elections were held in June for a national council, whose purpose is to advise how to reconstitute the National Assembly.

There really is a movement within the country to re-establish a democratic institution," Gnehm said.

Asked to assess the political situation in Iran in light of his extensive experience in the region, Gnehm said that "leaders in Iran continue to struggle internally to try to find a way to the future. There are a lot of tensions between them," he said. "The spectre of Khomeini still exists; it's still there." But, he noted, "we have seen some changes."

"We have always said that we are ready and able to talk with a designated, proper representative of the Iranian government, and we hoped the relationship would improve over time," Gnehm said.



Edward Gnehm served as charge d'affaires at the American embassy in Amman in the mid-1980s. But he stressed:

"We have always also underscored that they have to improve their performance and policies in certain areas, like terrorism and hostages."

Gnehm appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to gain their consent to his nomination, as must every ambassadorial nominee. The U.S. Constitution requires that high presidential appointments be made with the "advice and consent" of the U.S. Senate. The Foreign Relations Committee, after examining the nominee, makes its recommendations to the full Senate.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korna
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News Summary
18:10 Local programme
19:00 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:50 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic
23:30 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

17:45 Le Monde Est a Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Joint Account
21:00 Encounter
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film "Jeebel"

PRAYER TIMES

04:14 Fajr
05:43 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:41 Maghrib
21:11 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetfiah, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 626543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 683226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811296
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 64932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A drop in temperature is expected and winds will be northwesterly and strong, causing dust in desert areas. In Amman, it will be dusty with northerly fresh wind on a very sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 19 / 31
Aqaba 25 / 39
Dahesh 20 / 35
Jordan Valley 24 / 37

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Walid Sahrawneh 779977
Dr. Hanna Matar 748364
Dr. Abdul Hadez Khawaja 791954
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asman pharmacy 637625
Nadwakh pharmacy 626572
Al Selen pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeizani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Marwan Habbab (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Fire Brigades 192, 621111, 637777
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 943402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 636221
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdell Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 980100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeizani 661714
Shmeizani Hospital 661911
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Zaidan, Al-Mushter 7751126
Al-Bashir, J. Amn. 891611/25
Army, Marka 891611/25
Queen Alia Hospital 622403/50
Anzal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983523
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
AQABA:
Jbn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275355
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Jbn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3200-1, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:15 Agaba (RJ)
10:20 Dhalana (RJ)
10:30 Kuwait (RJ)
10:35 New Delhi (RJ)
10:40 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
18:00 Baghdad (RJ)
18:10 London (RJ)
19:10 Frankfurt (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:55 Baghdad (IA)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
14:35 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
15:35 Rome (AZ)
17:30 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
21:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 Agaba (RJ)
11:40 Tripoli (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, Madrid (RJ)
13:40 London (RJ)
13:45 Rome, Paris (RJ)
13:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
14:00 Baghdad (RJ)
14:05 Kuwait (RJ)
14:10 Bahrain (RJ)
14:15 Cairo (RJ)
14:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
14:00 Bahrain (GF)
14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:05 Riyadh (SV)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jammo to visit USSR

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammo will start a visit to the Soviet Chechen Autonomous Republic on August 16 upon an official invitation from its government. Jammo said he would hold talks with officials there on topics of developing and enhancing cooperation between Jordan and the Chechen Republic, particularly in cultural and scientific fields and in exchanging scientific delegations.

Jordan to attend Arab education talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the fifth meeting of Arab ministers of education due to be held in Cairo on Aug. 24. Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan will represent Jordan at the four-day meeting at the head of an official delegation.

Jordan, Iraq discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint Jordanian-Iraqi follow-up committee has formed three specialised sub-committees to discuss prospects of setting up a railroad between Jordan and Iraq, unification of metrology and specifications and setting up joint ventures. The committees will review the achievements made by both Jordan and Iraq within the framework of the joint cooperation agreement concluded during the joint ministerial Iraqi-Jordanian committee's meetings.

Ministry, JUST sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Health and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) was signed Wednesday at the ministry. The agreement, which was signed by Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben and JUST President Kamel Al Ajlouni, provides for the management of the comprehensive health centre in Zarqa, Irbid, jointly by the ministry and JUST. According to Zaben, the centre, which provides health services to citizens, is considered a training centre for students of medicine and medical specialisations from both the ministry and JUST and will serve for conducting health researches. He said the ministry is planning to establish other similar centres all over the Kingdom if the other universities agree with the ministry.

Arab youth ministers to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh left Amman for Tunis Wednesday to take part in the meetings of the 13th session of the Arab Youth and Sports Ministers' Council. Ghababsheh said that the agenda of the session included discussing the resolutions of the council's executive bureau and the resolutions of the fourth session of the Arab Youth Fund. The minister is accompanied in his five-day visit by the ministry's Director of the Sports Department Fahd Al Abbadi.

Libya honours commitment to CAEU

AMMAN (Petra) — The Libyan government has honoured its commitment to the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) general assembly, according to an official source in CAEU general assembly. The source expressed his appreciation for the Libyan contribution and said this comes within the framework of Libya's moves to present every kind of support to CAEU activities and for any joint Arab action programmes.

Delegation to Cairo meeting named

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has formed Jordan's delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers' meeting due to be held in Cairo towards the end of July. The delegation to the meeting, which will discuss a host of issues of concern to Arab and Islamic nations, will be led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi.

Damascus meeting discusses refugees

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan was among refugees hosting Arab countries that took part in a general meeting in Damascus. The participants discussed Palestinian people's conditions under Israeli rule, the Israeli threats to holy places in Palestine, Jewish immigration and the deteriorating economic conditions of Palestinian people. A full report is to be submitted to the Arab League.

Journalists visit QAIA

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of Jordanian journalists and the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Thursday made a tour of facilities and services at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The team, led by JPA President Hashem Khreisat, toured various sections and facilities run by the Royal Jordanian (RJ), and were briefed on each section. Later they met with RJ's Chief Executive Officer and President Hussam Abu Ghazaleh for an open dialogue.

University gets JD 5m loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) and Mutu University Wednesday signed an agreement by which the SSC will provide JD 5 million as a loan to the university to assist building the university's infrastructure project and the first stage of its buildings. The loan comes in accordance with SSC's policy which aims at contributing to the economic and social development in Jordan. The agreement was signed by SSC Director-General Mohammad Al Saqaf and the university's Deputy President for Administrative Affairs Majed Qureishat.

Transport facilities discussed

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Companies from Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt have concluded a deal here to operate regular transportation facilities for tourists among the four Arab states. These companies, which deal with land transport, aim at ensuring better facilities for transport and stimulating tourism.

Needy families helped by NAF

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) said in a statement that it distributed JD 107,184 to needy families in the Tafleh area, in southern Jordan, in the first half of 1990. The statement said that each needy family is receiving JD 45 in monthly financial assistance and its members get free medical services at government hospitals.

Jordan to take part in Cairo fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the Cairo international fair which will open in the Egyptian capital on August 23. An announcement here said that a Jordanian pavilion displaying national industrial products will be set up at the fair.

Ruseifa dumping site issue to be considered by ministries

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ministerial committee set up to deal with the garbage dumping site within the Ruseifa district is sending memoranda in the coming week to the ministers of health and water and irrigation, explaining the dangers of the present dumping site on public health and the underground water resources in Jordan.

The decision was made at a committee meeting held at the Prime Ministry under the chairmanship of Sheikh Abdul Baqi

Jammo, the committee's chairman.

Concerned officials as well as the mayors of Zarqa and Ruseifa were present at the meeting which reviewed a technical committee's report on the situation.

Garbage collected from Amman, Zarqa and Ruseifa is dumped in an area close to Ruseifa, polluting the atmosphere and prompting a popular protest in the area last April.

Local press reports said that up to the 7,000 reported medical

cases resulting from pollution were dealt with by the health authorities.

The 250,000 inhabitants of Ruseifa have repeatedly protested to the government over the dumping ground in their vicinity because of the bad smell and diseases resulting from pollution.

Jammo said last week that geologists would help the ministerial committee decide on a new dumping ground where the garbage would not pose a threat to underground water resources.



Participants to the fourth Jordanian Youth Congress Thursday visit Armed Forces units (Petra photo)

Youth congress debates economy, unemployment

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sleiman Arar met Thursday with participants to the fourth Jordanian Youth Congress and discussed with them the economic situation in Jordan and current plans to deal with the problem of unemployment.

Arar said that Jordan was now following the course of democracy in which the media can play a leading role and the intellectuals shoulder a main responsibility. The absence of the intellectuals' role in the past, he said, created a dangerous situation for the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular.

process in the country.

The participants, including expatriates who ended a week-long activity in the country, visited Armed Forces units and watched troops performing routine exercises.

They also visited Yarmouk University where they met with officials and were briefed on the university's programmes and activities.

Arar said that Jordan was now following the course of democracy

in which the media can play a leading role and the intellectuals shoulder a main responsibility.

Life-term convict gets 3-day parole

By Sahar Qais'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian serving a life sentence for a plot against the life of His Majesty King Hussein was given a three-day parole to attend a family funeral this week, family sources said Friday.

Breik Al Hadid, who was a prominent member of the banned "Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party," was released Wednesday midnight and should report back to the Swaga Prison today, Saturday, officials said.

Hadid was sentenced to death in 1977 after he was found guilty of plotting to fire a missile against an aircraft carrying the King, but the penalty was commuted to life sentence with hard labour under a Royal amnesty.

The parole came in response to a plea made by the family to the King to give permission to Hadid to attend the burial of his nephew who was killed in an accident in the United States. The convict was released after a JD 10,000 bond was furnished, sources said. Hadid, in his testimony dur-

ing his trial by martial court in 1977, said he was instigated by Libya to try the assassination bid. He was arrested along with the Lebanese driver of a Kuwaiti-licensed refrigerated truck which smuggled the rockets from Lebanon into Jordan. The driver, Hussein Ra'ed, was released two months ago after spending 15 years in prison.

Hadid belongs to the Hadid tribe, one of the largest and most prominent Jordanian tribes with an impressive record of allegiance to the Hashemite throne. The Hadid family Thursday published in the daily newspapers a thank you and appreciation letter to the King and implicitly appealed for a permanent amnesty for Hadid.

The Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, which was founded in the mid-70s by Wadi Haddad (who died in Baghdad in 1981) and Mohamed Abu Issa (who is serving a prison sentence in Syria), is an offspring of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and is considered one of the most extreme Palestinian groups.

U.S. Senate

(Continued from page 1)

In the House of Representatives, which was considering its own version of the farm bill, action was expected Friday on a similar amendment to eliminate U.S. agricultural credit guarantees to Iraq.

At the same time, government sources said the administration of President George was seriously considering a range of options for action against Iraq.

Options included putting Iraq back on the U.S. list of "terrorist" nations, which would end commodity loan guarantees and Export-Import Bank credits for purchase of American industrial goods, and more tighter restrictions on U.S. exports.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee scheduled action for next week on a bill drafted by Democratic Congressman Howard Berman that would impose a similar list of sanctions on Iraq. Still other sanctions were contained in an export administration act pending on the Senate calendar.

D'Amato had offered his sanctions legislation as an amendment to another bill in May, but withdrew it to hold hearings on the proposal. The administration testified against the bill at hearings on June 15, but D'Amato picked up support from colleagues, including Kansas Republican Sen. Nancy Kassebaum.

Symposium to review rights of Arab children

AMMAN (J.T.) — A one-day symposium on child protection will be held Saturday at the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) premises in Shmeisani.

Addressing the symposium, to be chaired by Laila Sharaf, will be Inaam Al Mufri, director general of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Saeedini Abraham, deputy regional director of UNICEF Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, Dr. Jawad Al Anani, and Andrea Cornea, from UNICEF New York headquarters and author of "Adjustment with Human Face."

Speakers will highlight the impact of economic adjustment programmes on children, review Jordan's economic adjustment plans and the rights of the Arab child.

The symposium, organised by ATF in cooperation with UNICEF, is part of the national preparations for the World Summit for Children, due to convene in New York from 29-30 September.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
- Exhibition of paintings depicting Arabian and other horses by Henri Busy at the Philadelphia Hotel.
- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarz displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Roosthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The third and the ninth memorial service for the late Arsen (Boulos) Boghos Kouyoumdjian will be held at the Orthodox Armenian Church, Jabal Al Ashrafiah on Sunday July 29, 1990 at 9:30 a.m. The family of the deceased calls relatives and friends to take part in the memorial service and to consider this as a personal invitation to each of them.

May God save you from all harm



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday chairs a meeting of the higher steering committee of the Greater Amman Municipality (Petra photo)

Development plan approved for Greater Amman area

AMMAN (Petra) — A comprehensive plan for the development of the Greater Amman area was approved Thursday by the municipality's higher steering committee presided over by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

The plan, prepared by the municipality's technical committee in conjunction with the Dar Al Handasa engineering consul-

tancy firm in Amman, entails modernisation of Amman's public utilities and municipal services.

Agreement came following a detailed discussion of the plan and various recommendations attached to it, according to an announcement.

It said that the plan would serve as a standing government

strategy for the Amman region, provided it is updated on an annual basis and after being endorsed by the Cabinet.

The announcement said that any administrative aspects related to the plan will be implemented through cooperation between the government and the Greater Amman Municipality.

Meeting to discuss Arab food, water

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) opens a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday under Royal patronage. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is expected to deliver a key-note speech outlining the Arab World's water and food security situations.

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat said that the ministers would discuss matters related to agricultural development in general with special attention on ways to ensure food security for the Arab region.

The ministers will review the organisation's activities and plans for 1991 and 1992 and will discuss amendments to a pan-Arab agreement on AOAD's operations.

Arabiyat said that the meetings would focus attention on the possibility of establishing a higher Arab council on cereals and another council on water. They will also look into the prospect of setting up a green belt around the Arab World to stem desertification.

Ministry of water set to help Karak

KARAK (J.T.) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf has affirmed the need to exploit more water resources in Karak Governorate to be able to meet the needs of the increasing population, partly due to the reverse migration of citizens from the city to the country.

Khalaf visited Karak Governorate Thursday and held a meeting with Karak Governor Ismail Duheiman Al Zaben. At the meeting Khalaf affirmed the necessity of building dams to collect rain waters, maintaining water ponds and digging artesian wells, especially in the southern parts of the governorate, to meet the people's needs of water in these areas and for irrigation purposes.

For this purpose, the minister said, the ministry is currently working on dams in Al Waha, Al Tannour and Al Mujib areas. Khalaf said the ministry was trying to solve the problem of water distribution in the southern Jordan Valley and added that water was being distributed now to owners of land of an area exceeding 6 dunums. He affirmed the need to establish cooperative societies to serve farmers there.

The ministry, he said, is digging artesian wells in different

areas, in accordance with plans and the available capabilities. The minister said the sewerage network in Dabiat Al Marj would be finished by the beginning of 1991.

Khalaf said the ministry was preparing a study on the prospect of building a water tank in Al Damikhi village, which faces water shortage, and allowed farmers to dig artesian wells to exploit the agricultural land there.

Karak governor reviewed at the meeting the water situation in the governorate and proposed some solutions to the water shortage problem.

Zaben suggested digging artesian wells in the eastern parts of the governorate to increase the area of land used for agriculture. He also reviewed the development of work in projects being carried out to combat drought effects such as maintenance of springs and water canals.

The meeting was attended by Karak deputy governor, Karak Police Department deputy director and the Water Department director.

Khalaf later visited the waste water treatment plant in Karak, and then Al Mujib and Al Waha areas to see the water situation there.

Jordan, Libya to cooperate in medical, health affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Mubammad Addnub Al Zabeeh leaves for Libya Saturday at the head of an official delegation to discuss Libyan-Jordanian cooperation in medical and health fields.

Zabeeh, who is making the visit at the invitation of his Libyan counterpart Mustafa Al Za'idi, is expected to discuss the employment of Jordanian physicians and specialists in Libyan hospitals and the question of bilateral cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two sides were also expected to discuss cooperation in scientific and medical

areas and the training of medical staff and participation in medical conferences organised by either country.

Exchange of laws and regulations concerning medical issues, expertise in medical education and health affairs will also be on the agenda, Petra said.

The minister is accompanied by a three-member delegation.

It was earlier announced that a team of officials from the Libyan Health Ministry will come to Jordan this week to conclude contracts with Jordanian specialists to work in Libyan hospitals and health centres.

In accordance with a 1988 agreement Jordan has been supplying Libya with medical teams of doctors and specialists and the two countries have been cooperating in the field of pharmaceuticals.

According to the Health Ministry here, a total of 70 Jordanian physicians are already employed in Libya.

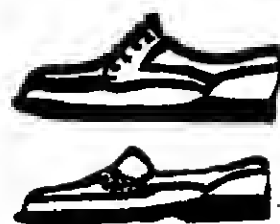
The health minister's visit to Libya comes after restoration of Jordanian-Libyan diplomatic relations. Ambassador Hisham Al Muheisen left for Tripoli earlier this week to assume his post following the restoration of full diplomatic ties after a break of six years.

News

THEY'RE
HERE
AND THEY
ARE
COMFORTABLE

NOEL FRANCE

Kopti



KOPTI SHOES BASMAN STREET TEL: 623782
KOPTI SHOES JABAL AL HUSEIN TEL: 661634
KOPTI SHOES BIADER WADIALSIER TEL: 822435

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973.

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Ideal time to start strong

ALL IS well that ends well. And that is exactly how the short-lived tempest in the Arab Gulf has ended. The happy outcome of Arab mediation between Iraq on one side and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates on the other vindicates the long-held view that there is enough reservoir of goodwill among the three Arab countries and the rest of the Arab World to overcome any inter-Arab misunderstanding. As was projected earlier on, the row that developed among the Arab Gulf countries was nothing but a passing summer cloud that dissipated as fast as it had formed.

To the outside powers which were waging on escalating the problem about oil production quotas into a more serious conflict, the agreement between the affected countries must have come as a disappointment. The enemies of the Arabs have thus been deprived of any opportunity to fish in murky waters of the Gulf. Against this background, efforts must be immediately pursued to make sure that such intermittent Arab disagreements do not occur again. Mechanisms and institutions need to be established and activated to ensure that channels of communications between the Arab oil producing countries and others are kept open at all times. Even more important than agreement on oil pricing and production quotas is the adoption of a new perspective about Arab natural resources. It so happens that oil is the Arabs' most potent weapon, and therefore if needs to be held in trust in the service of the entire Arab World. Once this perspective is adopted, agreement between the Arab oil producing countries will be better secured and assured.

The 1990s is the decade that will be marked by an increased dependence of the West and the industrialised world on Arab oil. We have to be prepared for it by both making oil available, at the right price, and investing the wealth generated in strengthening pan-Arab security, interests and development. This is the time, then, not only to solve intra-Arab disputes, whether over quotas or borders or ideological questions, but also to base relations among brothers on firm and solid foundations which will serve the higher ideals of all Arabs for many generations to come.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Sheer intrinsic Arab force has prompted Israel to declare its consent to an Egyptian proposal sent to the United Nations about keeping the Middle East a zone free of all mass destruction weapons, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. Israel has adamantly refused to sign an international agreement prohibiting the proliferation of nuclear and mass destruction weapons; and its acceptance of the Egyptian proposal now and its declaration of its readiness to open direct talks with its neighbours on this issue, could have been prompted by Iraq's disclosure that it possesses chemical weapons that can cause massive destruction, said the paper. Iraq has clearly showed that the Arabs possess weapons which can deter any future Israeli aggression, thus achieving a strategic balance with the Jewish state, the paper noted. But, the paper warned, that Israel might have resorted to this announcement at present in order to brighten its image before the international community, showing the world that it is ready to enter into negotiations with the Arabs who refuse to create a safe zone in the region, said the paper. The paper believes that Israel must have resorted to this manoeuvre in order to embarrass Iraq, which of course would refuse to talk to Israel under the present circumstances. It said that there is no room for blackmail here; and if Israel wants to have a peaceful zone, it should accept an international conference where all questions related to a comprehensive peace can be discussed.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily blames the Ministry of Social Development and its affiliated agencies for the increase in the number of handicapped youths and beggars on the streets of main cities specially Amman and Zarqa. Fakhr al Kassar says that this summer has witnessed crowds of the handicapped and homeless children going about the streets, crowding around cars at traffic lights and even attacking cars trying to draw attention to their plight or hoping to get any assistance from car occupants and pedestrians alike. The ministry ought to shoulder its responsibility and provide protection and care for these unfortunate children and beggars who live under hard conditions, said Kassar. A careful study of each of these cases is required, said the writer, because amongst them are some of those who we call swindlers or vandals or common thieves, because the ministry can only help those who are really in need of help and can find places for those who need rehabilitation so that they can become useful citizens serving their society.

Al Dustour Friday heaped praise on Arab diplomacy which, it said, has now succeeded in defusing the tension in the Gulf by paving the way for solving the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. The paper said that the Arab leadership seems to have passed a trying test, and won the approval of Baghdad and Kuwait to meet in Jeddah over the weekend and thrash out their problems in an amicable manner. Success in ending the row between Iraq and Kuwait means simply thwarting all enemy attempts to fuel the crisis, and ending all American attempts to cause differences among Arab states, said the paper. This Arab diplomatic success, said the paper, has helped the OPEC countries meeting in Geneva to hold a relaxed atmosphere, and it paved the way for OPEC's success in arriving at an agreement ensuring continued stable oil prices and stable production quotas in the best interests of the oil producing countries. The success of Arab diplomatic efforts, added the paper, should spur Arab leaders to strive for a greater measure of inter-Arab solidarity in the face of other common threats.

View from Amman

'No attempt at understanding'

IN last week's article I stated that the fundamentalism that has become a major characteristic of the world of Islam is not the problem, but only a symptom. It is an indicator that we are a people who find themselves in trouble and that our response, or a large part of it, is to turn inwards upon ourselves looking for solace as well as drawing upon our own inner resources. Our troubles are not with our enemies alone, but within ourselves as well. The world of Islam in general and the Arab world in particular are caught in the tentacles of a crisis of civilisation whose dimensions are at once spiritual, socio-economic, intellectual and political: A crisis that impacts upon our actions both internally and externally at the same time.

In this article, I shall focus on the motives and the reasons behind Western enmity towards us, not to increase the level of animosity among us, but in an attempt to better understand ourselves, and in turn understand the West.

Surely a better understanding will enable us to improve the quality of dealing with this segment of mankind that, whether we like it or not, has been the most effective and the most influential segment over the past five centuries. The Latin Americans, Africans, Asians and others are important and we should befriend them, if, and when we can. But we must also realise that it is the west, Europe; all of Europe and the Americas and perhaps also Australia that set the standards and call the shots. Not only the weapons, the technology, modern advances in the sciences and knowledge in general, but also in political presence and influence, it is the West that ultimately affects our lives, though mostly adversely. Witness the record of our problems in the United Nations where time after time all the votes of humanity are rendered powerless by the veto of the United States and some of its allies.

And because our problem is with the West, it is the one that

we should attempt to study and understand. Several reasons account for the Western enmity towards us; some are historic while others are contemporary and perhaps caused by our own ineptness in handling our affairs. Islam was faced with hostility from the moment of its birth; an hostility that, over the centuries took several forms and shapes. Jerusalem, the spiritual birth place of Christianity, the land and people were converted, along with neighbouring lands and regions, and forever, to Islam. To Islam and its dynamic culture and language not only lands but also souls were forever lost. That is how the West looks at it, and that explains the repeated attempts over the centuries to reconquer, one way or another what was once lost. It explains the Crusades, Napoleon, Western colonialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the missionary activities as well as the espousal of the cause of Zionism. It also explains General Allenby's remark upon visiting

the tomb of Salah-Al-Din Al-Ayoubi, Saladin in 1918, "we have returned Saladin..."

Islam is perhaps the only civilisation that not only stood on equal footing with the West over the centuries, but often with a superior attitude too. The Mediterranean became a great divide rather than a meeting place and eyeing each other from its opposite shores neither Islam, nor the West ever slackened in their hostile vigilance.

The historic enmity also explains the Zionist success in capturing the heart and the mind of Western culture turning it from a Christian to a Judeo-Christian one, and in spite of the deep hostility and hatred that the Christians of the West harboured, and some still do, towards the Jews. Hitler was the ugliest manifestation of that hatred; a hatred that runs deep within even the British and Americans willing to burst toward at the least provocation. There are other reasons for Western hostility:

Strategic economic and cultural. We happen to inhabit the most important piece of real estate on the face of this Earth: The cross roads of continents and civilisations. In our Arab World lies Gibraltar, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Suez Canal, Bab el Mandeb, the Arabian Sea, the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. These strategic assets were only enhanced with the discovery of oil in our lands in this century. An oil that too, somehow turned out to the benefit of the West more than it is of benefit to us; except of course the few who do not know what to do with the riches. It is our weakness that turned these blessings into liabilities so that when the need arises, others are called to protect them, and sometimes even from us.

What should we do with our fundamentalism? We cannot nor should we throw it into the sea; for the fundamentalists too, want to progress and modernise. They want the modern advances, the technology, the human dignity that modernity

brings, though they do not understand Western hostility. They too, want to Westernise or maybe we should call it modernise without becoming Western, and in their frustration, they often make mistakes. Not only no one is helping or willing to attempt to understand, everyone is hounding and harassing. At the World Business Forum, held in Edinburgh in the first week of this month of July 1990 A.D., the past and present government leaders, senior corporate executives and intellectuals from the industrialised world, over the period of four days celebrated the 200th anniversary of the death of the economic philosopher Adam Smith. They also identified what they considered the major problems and "challenges" facing humanity, meaning really the West, in the future and among these they identified Islamic fundamentalism. No surprise at all, simply that. Why? (See the Herald Tribune, July 2, 1990, p. 7).

Democracy eludes Kuwait's people and government

By Aly Mahmoud
The Associated Press

KUWAIT — Kuwaitis are debating how to pursue democracy four years after the ruling family closed the Western-style parliament and press.

Some feel the choice for the Emir, where oil provides one of the world's highest per capita incomes, is between reviving the old system and developing an Islamic brand of democracy.

The government and dissidents have traded accusations of blame for setbacks to the democratic institutions, but dissident leader Ahmed Al-Saadoun said: "our loyalty to our leader, the Emir, is undiminished by our unrelenting struggle for democracy."

"Security authorities have tried to cast an undue tinge of rebellion on our movement," Saadoun, speaker of the dissolved parliament, said in an interview. "Riot police ruthlessly dispersed peaceful rallies, closed our diwanis and arrested parliament deputies."

Diwanis are informal gatherings at the homes of prominent citizens to discuss current issues. The government declared the diwanis of former deputies illegal at one point and ordered them closed.

Dissidents and witnesses said police used clubs and tear gas to disperse pro-democracy demonstrators. They said some members of the former parliament were beaten up and 15 were arrested.

"The respected institution of diwanis has been badly abused," Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, the interior minister, told reporters. "The diwanis became a platform of diatribe and anti-government agitation. We had to put an end to that."

About 30 of the 50 former deputies, under Saadoun, lead a pro-democracy movement that has broad support among wealthy merchants in the Gulf Emirate.

Native Kuwaitis "are the largest minority in our own country and, with the population structure being infested with all kinds of hostile and begrudging elements, we desperately need national unity today more than ever before," said Mohammed Al-Gadiri, a close aide of Saadoun.

Fewer than 40 per cent of the Emirate's 1.8 million people are Kuwaitis. About 30 per cent of the residents are Shi'ite Muslims, some of whom sympathise with the Islamic revolution in nearby Iran.

Kuwait once had the Arab world's only free press and freely elected parliament, both of which were eyed with suspicion by neighbouring Saudi Arabia and other conservative governments in the Gulf region.

When the Iran-Iraq war be-

gan in 1980, the government decided democracy was a luxury no Gulf nation could afford. Pro-Iranian Shi'ites spread terror in Kuwait with bombings and made a daring attempt to kill the Emir.

Relations between Kuwait and Iran have improved since a cease-fire halted the war in 1988, and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran visited recently.

Several times during the war, the press and parliament embarrassed the government with accusations of corruption and open debates of subversion and foreign policy.

Criticism of the government became increasingly harsh after the unofficial Souk Al-Manakh stock market collapsed in 1982. The press also blamed the government for the crash, which was sparked by worthless, post-dated checks totalling \$97 billion.

Deputies claimed the government had allowed influential people close to the ruling Sabah family to borrow speculation money from banks without collateral.

That prompted the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, to suspend the National Assembly in 1986 and censor the press.

"The Emir acted on his constitutional authority when he dissolved parliament, but the constitutional stipulation that elections for a new parliament be held within 60 days was ignored," Saadoun said.

Only July 9, Sheikh Jaber ordered the detainees freed and introduced a "transitional" legislature dissidents rejected as unconstitutional. Jaber said the 75-member National Council would pave the way for a parliament within four years.

He ordered the council of 50 elected and 25 appointed members to create "controls" to avert the acrimony that precipitated two suspensions of parliament in a decade.

Saadoun and other activists expressed fear the government would amend the constitution to curtail the powers of parliament.

"This rape of democracy cannot be tolerated," he said. "All non-constitutional action, including the current national council, must be abolished without delay."

The Emir has spoken of eventual return to a "desired parliament," which was widely interpreted as return to a Western-style body.

Several activists believe, however, that Jaber might opt for an Islamic-type Shura consultative council rather than a genuine legislature, which would please Saudi Arabia and other conservative Arab states.

East Europeans weary of 'democracy'

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Millions of East Europeans expected the tide of democracy that swept the Communists from power last year to solve all their problems. It hasn't, and discontent is spreading.

Janos Lampert, a 32-year-old electrician in Budapest, Hungary, was an avid supporter of the democracy movement.

Three months after democratic elections gave Hungary its first non-Communist government in four decades, he still moonlights to support his wife and two children.

Of the televised parliament sessions, he said: "Disgusting... those guys yakking all day while the economy is in shambles."

Problems in Budapest may differ from those in Bucharest, East Berlin, Prague, Sofia or Warsaw, but disappointment is widespread.

Some East Europeans question whether the battle for democracy has really been won. Others are depressed by the long road to prosperity that lies ahead.

Hungarians have been subjected to price increases, new taxes and business bankruptcies that produced unemployment. The mood is sullen. Many believe the new government of political neophytes is unequal to the task of improving conditions with a minimum of pain.

For Hungarians thinking of starting a business, government permission takes up to three

months.

Inflation exceeded 30 per cent in the first quarter of this year, industrial production dropped more than 8 per cent and an estimated 50,000 people were unemployed, compared to 3,200 a year ago. The foreign debt of \$20.6 billion is the highest per capita in Eastern Europe.

Decades of Communist mismanagement in Romania left many industries and services barely functioning, but there is enough to eat for the first time in a decade.

'Disgusting ... those guys yakking all day while the economy is in shambles'

In a country unused to even a trace of freedom, the meeting of basic needs appears to be reason for economic contentment. The political situation is less promising.

Multiparty elections held May 20 were generally fair, but were preceded by campaign violence unequalled in the region. Many Romanians still fear and distrust the victorious National Salvation Front, whose leaders they consider Communist.

The government's inauguration last month was preceded by violent attacks on government institutions and mob rule by miners answering a government appeal for help.

"After such a bloody riot, it is

very easy to bring people back onto the streets," Adrian Severin, who is charged with introducing a market economy, said afterward, "the hate in the people's soul was not at all consumed."

Political turmoil also contributes to a sense of insecurity in Bulgaria, the only East European country where the ruling Communists won democratic elections.

Threats of escalating strikes forced the resignation July 7 of President Petar Mladenov, a reform Communist, and protests

Stories are relatively well stocked and people appear to be managing, but workers have gone on strike over rising prices and wage controls.

Mazowiecki's critics want to replace President Wojciech Jaruzelski, the former Communist leader, with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa. They say the people are less willing to make economic sacrifices when the president and many members of parliament are Communist holdovers.

In a speech to workers July 8, Walesa said: "We were not prepared for... the work that would come after the abolition of communism."

Even Czechoslovakia, left with a relatively healthy economy, are having trouble with economic adjustment. Food prices were increased 25 per cent on July 11.

Rents, and energy costs are scheduled to rise in the fall, followed by total price decontrol and accelerated conversion to private enterprise early next year.

East Germans are assured of relatively quick prosperity through union with West Germany, but are bracing for short-term turmoil.

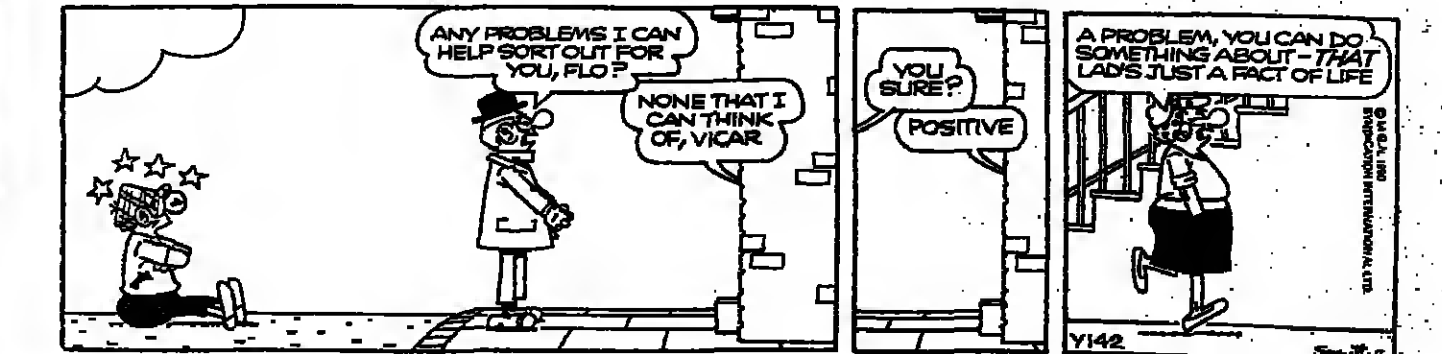
One-third to more than one-half the country's 8,000 major enterprises are expected to go broke in a few months. Millions of people could lose their jobs and many people have predicted a "hot autumn" of strikes.

With West Germany financing economic reform, officials say the situation will begin to improve next year.

Mutt'n'Jeff



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Peanuts



Jordan Times

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Kaifu arrives Aug. 21

(Continued from page 1)

million in oil from Kuwait (the Kuwaiti assistance in kind is being received by the Kingdom at the rate of \$5 million every month).

Senior officials have said that the \$100 million received from Saudi Arabia was the first instalment of Riyadh's assistance to Jordan this year, and more was expected to come. But it was not clear how much was mentioned except that the total Arab aid during the year would exceed the half-billion dollar mark.

Jordan, whose foreign debts now total \$3.4 billion, needs \$500 million for 1980, and has received foreign debts every year, Jurdanich noted. Other officials have said the Kingdom would be able to manage well in most areas while also maintaining its military and social services. It receives an annual aid of \$1 billion for the next several years.

Debt rescheduling

The Kingdom has concluded bilateral debt rescheduling agreements with all except four governments represented in the 14-member Paris Club, the minister said. "One of the governments is not interested in negotiating with us," he said without disclosing the name of country. "We have already reached agreement with another, and are in discussion with the other two," he added with elaboration. According to reports in the international press, the four countries are Belgium, Britain, Kuwait and Sweden.

The Kingdom's total debt to the countries represented in Paris Club is about \$3.56 billion. Jordan has already reached a broad agreement with the Paris Club for rescheduling debt repayments totalling \$2.49 billion due in 1989 and 1990, and the negotiations Jardanch referred to are on the bilateral agreements and executive terms which follow such an accord.

Jordan has also reached agreement with the London Club of commercial creditors on rescheduling debt repayments involving a total of \$375 million due until June 1991. The Kingdom is now negotiating an agreement from the London Club on its debt buy-back plan and has tabled a proposal to the group. "They will review the proposal in early August, and we hope to reach agreement before the end of August," Jardaneh said. Indications are that Jordan's debts are available in the market at a discounted rate of 70 cents to the dollar.

The minister did not specify any figure for the amount targeted under the debt buy-back plan. "We have to find out how much of Jordan's commercial debts are on the market," he said. The total amount Jordan owes to the London Club, which represents over 90 commercial banks and financial institutions, is \$1.3 billion.

The Kingdom has to finalise all agreements with London and Paris clubs before September this year he

fore it can open further negotiations to reschedule its debt payments due in 1991 (from July 1991 in the case of London Club since the \$575 million already agreed upon covers the period until June 1991).

Debt management plan

Discussing the Kingdom's medium-term and long-term plans, Jardaneh said the ministry was contemplating a three-pronged debt management plan. The first is conversion of foreign debts into assets through encouraging creditors to invest part of their dues in joint ventures in the Kingdom under bilateral agreements to be worked out.

"We will try to use our foreign debts as an asset and instrument rather than a bottleneck in the process of economic development," according to Jardanch. The minister cited 50 per cent as a possible contribution from the Jordanian side to projects initiated by the Kingdom's creditors in lieu of the Kingdom's debts.

Answering a question, the minister pointed out that Jordan does not qualify for any "debt write-off" by any of its creditors under the Toronto Protocol since the annual per capita income of the Kingdom was higher than the \$880 set under the protocol.

The second part of the debt management plan is using the "idle capacity" of Jordanian industries to produce goods to be supplied to creditors in exchange for debt payments.

Jordan's cement factories are working in full capacity now and the Kingdom will export 200,000 tonnes of cement this month, Jardaneh said. He did not say where the consignment was destined.

The third part of the Kingdom's approach is the debt buy-back plan. During the last round of discussions with the London Club, in London, "we could not agree on the terms of the buy-back," he said, adding that efforts are on track to reach agreement on the basis of the Jordanian proposal. "We are optimistic that they will react to it in a positive manner and we can agree on this outstanding issue since the other issues that remain are of a very minor nature."

According to the minister, Jordan was encouraged to pursue the debt buy-back plan since funds could be made available from the World Bank and other international agencies.

"Instead of having commercial loans at high interest rates with short-term maturity, they (World Bank) give loans which are softer, with a longer maturity and lower interest and the loans could be converted into a new debt to the World Bank," he said. "...And instead of converting one dollar to one dollar, you convert it into 50 to 70 cents to one dollar."

This debt buy-back plan could get off the ground in six months' time if the London Club gives it the green signal and the Jordanian government endorses it, Jardaeh said.

Another related plan under study involves securing funds for debt buy-back through government bonds in Arab markets. The minister said it was too early to discuss any specific target figures since it remained to be seen how the market will react to the entire Jordanian approach to buying back its debts.

higher interest and stricter terms. It is also not clear yet whether the \$90 million would be under the easy terms originally agreed for the \$300 million package or be subject to new terms to be worked out.

"This is one of the outstanding issues," Jardaneh told the Jordan Times.

Under the plan to be tabled during Kaifu's visit, the minister said, Jordan will seek more development aid, more support to sustain its economic restructuring programme and further Japanese help in the Kingdom's efforts to alleviate its debt burden.

Other officials have said that Jordan would also seek fresh Japanese investments in industrial and tourism projects in the Kingdom.

Kaifu's visit to Jordan is part of a Middle East tour including Turkey, Egypt, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

(Continued from page 1)

In reaching agreement, the ministers persuaded Iraqi Minister Issam Abdul Rahem Al Chalabi to back off his demand for a \$25-a-barrel target price. Others said \$25 was too high.

The current target price of \$18 has been in effect since December 1986. The current production limit is about 22.09 million barrels a day, based on individual quotas set for each member.

Kuwait and the UAE have been accused often of exceeding their output quotas, and Iraq says it has lost \$14 billion in oil revenue because of the resulting slide in prices.

OPEC delegates said Iraq could claim partial victory for a more hawkish line even though it did not get \$25.

Iraq's Chalabi said: "I am very happy with the agreement on \$21."

(Continued from page 1)

prices. Hussein had said Iraq lost \$89 billion between 1981-1990 as a result of low oil prices.

President Mubarak won a pledge from Iraq Wednesday that Iraq would not attack Kuwait but Baghdad has not softened its demand for \$2.4 billion in compensation for oil it says Kuwait siphoned from Iraqi fields.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, urging the parties to the dispute to "work out their differences in a peaceful and constructive manner," said Thursday that there appears to be some movement toward a "diplomatic dialogue which could defuse the tensions in the

In that regard, the deputy spokesman noted that U.S. Ambassador April Glaspić met in Baghdad with Uj President Hussein July 25. During the meeting, the deputy spokes-

an said, Hussein expressed his desire for a peaceful resolution of the situation and informed the ambassador of his plans for discussions with Kuwait.

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Her Majesty Queen Noor attends one of the briefing sessions by Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zeid (left) Queen Noor chats with a Jordanian athlete during one of the games at the Special Olympics

Jordanians win 6 gold, 8 silver medals at Special Olympics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has returned to Amman following a short visit to Scotland where she was a guest of honor at the opening ceremonies of the European Summer Special Olympic Games for mentally handicapped athletes, in the Strathclyde region.

The 15-member team to the games was accompanied by

Queen Noor and Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zeid, three coaches and one official, to Glasgow's Celtic Football Stadium for the opening ceremony, which was attended by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Jordanian athletes competed in track and field events and in basketball. The Queen and the accompanying delegation

attended several competitions by Jordan's athletes who, by July 26, had already won six gold medals and eight silver medals.

The Jordanian Sports Federation for the Physically Handicapped was founded in 1981, following the International Year of the Disabled, and the Jordan Special Olympics programme was established in 1984 to encourage men-

tally handicapped persons to interact and compete with their peers on national and international levels.

Jordanian athletes first took part in Special Olympics in 1987 at Notre Dame University in Indiana.

One of the aims of the Special Olympics programme is to help people with mental retardation to

develop their potential.

Millions of mentally retarded children and adults have participated in Special Olympics since its founding in 1968. This year's European Summer Special Olympic Games, held from July 20-27, 1990, are the third and largest European games held in the history of Special Olympics Interna-

tional, which also held European Summer Games in Brussels in 1981 and in Dublin in 1985.

About 2,400 athletes from 30 countries participated in the Glasgow event including, for the first time in the history of Special Olympics, athletes from the USSR and some Eastern European countries.

Astapkovich, Harrison win with sparkling performance in Seattle

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — Soviet Igor Astapkovich put on the best hammer throwing show ever seen in the United States, and American Kenny Harrison listened to his girl friend's advice on his final triple jump to win gold at the Goodwill Games.

Astapkovich, the two-time World Student Games Champion, outdistanced teammates Andrei Abduvaliev and Igor Nikulin with a throw of 82.12 metres — the second best throw of the year.

Astapkovich used his third-round throw to seal the victory. He had taken the lead on a second-round toss of 82.52 to overtake Abduvaliev, whose best was 82.20, and Nikulin, who opened with a toss of 82.14, his best of the day.

"This was my best result ever," Astapkovich said. "The wind helped take the hammer and move it out."

Harrison, the year's leading triple jumper, trailed last year's number one, Mike Conley, going into his final jump.

Then he had a chat with his girl friend, Sheila Hudson, the U.S. record holder in the women's triple jump.

The result was a leap of 17.72 metres that was good enough for the gold.

"I had been real nervous because I was trying for the world record and putting too much

pressure on myself," Harrison said. "Sheila told me that I had better relax or I would be in trouble."

"So I didn't take off as aggressively on my final jump."

The hop, step and jump were superb and would have been much better had Harrison been able to hold the final phase, he said.

The 25-year-old Harrison was the winner after Conley went for the lead on his final jump and came up short at 17.48.

"I just lost it technically on that last jump," said Conley, who is known for clutch jumping himself.

Olympic silver medalist Hollis Conway claimed the high jump gold by clearing 2.33 metres and his fellow-American Sandra Farmer Patrick won the women's 400-metre hurdles, clocking 55.16 seconds.

The relays, as expected, were fast with the Soviet women and the U.S. men running the best 4x400 metre relay times in the world this year.

The Soviets clocked 3:23.70 for their victory and the American men won in 2:59.54.

Fast anchor legs also gave the Americans victory in both 4x100 metre relays.

Former 100 metres world record holder Evelyn Ashford blitzed through the final leg for the U.S. women, who clocked

42.46 seconds, while Dennis Mitchell made up to metres on Cuban Joel Isasi in the final 50 metres to power the U.S. men to victory in 38.45 seconds.

Soviet women get gold medal for volleyball

The Soviet Union beat China 3-1 to win the gold medal in the women's volleyball competition at the Goodwill Games.

The Soviet Union, 1988 Olympic champions, beat the Chinese 15-8, 13-15, 15-4, 15-10 to repeat their 1986 success at the Goodwill Games in Moscow.

Soviet standout Valentina Orlenko was named the tournament's most valuable player.

"I'm surprised (at the selection). I didn't think I was in my best form," said Orlenko who recently had knee surgery.

Brazil took the bronze with a 3-2 win over Peru. The Brazilians took a 15-3, 15-10 lead, but dropped the next two sets to Peru by 13-15 scores, before taking the deciding set 16-14.

The United States, bronze medalist at the last Goodwill Games, beat Japan 3-2 for fifth place in the eight-nation tournament.

Canada defeated Cuba in straight sets for seventh place.

The next major women's volleyball competition will be the World Championship, which begins on Aug. 22 in Peking.

Senna back on top in Formula 1 motor race

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Ayrton Senna regained his once-customary place as the quickest man in Formula One Friday.

The Brazilian grabbed provisional pole position for Sunday's West German Grand Prix motor race with another record-breaking performance.

In an incident-packed qualifying session, interrupted by Italian Alessandro Nannini crashed heavily in his Benetton, Senna was supreme in his McLaren.

Nannini escaped unhurt as Senna went on to share front row of the provisional grid with Austrian teammate Gerhard Berger.

Nannini went off at the entry to the third chicane on the 6.797-kilometre circuit after hitting a kerb. His car spun across the track and flew backwards into the trackside barriers which were protected by a layer of tyres.

It was a very heavy high-speed collision and Nannini's car burst into flames briefly before coming to a halt. The rear end and the front suspension were badly damaged.

Both McLaren drivers and their greatest rival, championship-leading Ferrari driver Frenchman Alain Prost, clocked times well below the previous qualifying lap record set by Finland's Keke Rosberg in a Williams in 1986.

Rosberg's record of 1:42.013 was beaten comprehensively by Senna's best time of 1:40.198 and also by Berger, who clocked 1:40.434, and Prost who had recorded a best time of 1:41.732 early in the session.

Senna's average speed on his record lap was 244.208 kph.

Senna, beaten out of pole position in the past three Grands Prix but bidding for a record 47th start from the front, said afterwards he felt he could have gone even faster, but made an error on his second qualifying lap.

"I made a small mistake on my second run when I hit the bump on the exit of the last chicane on the return leg of the circuit," he said.

"That threw me across the kerb so I drove off on the grass and abandoned the effort. It was a shame because I felt quicker to that point on the circuit than I had been on my first run."

Prost, chasing a fourth successive win while Senna is hoping to complete a hat-trick of victories at Hockenheim, admitted he did not have the pace to out-qualify Senna or Berger.

He and his British teammate Nigel Mansell, who has confirmed he will be retiring at the end of the season, both complained that their qualifying tyres were not lasting a full lap.

"I could have gone a bit quicker, but not as quick as the McLaren-Hondas," said Prost who was third-quickest ahead of Mansell.

Mansell again pointed out that his straight line speeds were below those of his teammate and the McLarens.

Hajiri wins Jordan cross-country raid

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Cross-Country Raid came to an end with Saeed Al Hajiri finishing first place, leaving the remaining six drivers far behind.

On Thursday, the first leg of the raid, Hajiri, who is the Arab World's number one driver from Qatar, experienced an event of bad luck when his Ford Bronco — "the mean machine" — lost eight minutes because of a flat tyre on the Hudhud Shand (special stage three). "It is not going to be easy to gain the lost minutes but I will have to push my car to its limit on Friday," Hajiri said.

As a result Hajiri was pushed eight knotsches down the position scale. Suhair Ibn Khalifa, driving a Mitsubishi Pajero from the United Arab Emirates, overtook Mamonh Al Khayyat from Saudi Arabia in Hadhud Shand stage, and finished the first leg of the race in first place.

"It will take a lot to hold first position," Khalifa said. "But it is important for both Hajiri and I because a victory means giving either of us a boost in the Middle East Championship."

Meanwhile, Khayyat came in second place on Thursday's first leg of the raid which pushed him up four knotsches from his original fifth position.

On the local scene, Mazen Dajani who currently runs second overall in the Middle East Championship, lead the local challenge.

However, towards the end of the first leg, Dajani dropped from 14th position down to 16th place. This gave the advantage to Ahmad Beseio, who drove a Toyota Land Cruiser, to surpass Dajani and Ahmad Al Daoud, competing in a Suzuki SJ 410.

Abd Hamzeh, driving a Suzuki AA 33 maintained first position locally and 11th overall position.

On Friday, the second leg of the raid, Hajiri climbed on his Bronco with an air of wild determination about him.

In a spectacular but expected show, Hajiri took advantage of his automatic gear box on the fifth stage; driving his Bronco with vigorous force, Hajiri overtook the eight cars ahead of him and took the lead by 14 minutes 84 seconds, with Khalifa behind him striving to catch up.

"Thanks to the Bronco, I was able to take the lead again," Hajiri says.

On the 8th special stage, in Swaga, Hajiri managed to gain a total of twenty minutes ahead of Khalifa. Haidham Al-Mufri from Jordan driving a Range Rover, pushed his way up to sixth overall position in this stage, gaining victory over Hamzeh who was leading the Jordanian team.

The overall results of the raid are as follows:

- 1) Saeed Al-Hajiri — Ford Bronco — total: 3:33:35.
- 2) Suhair Ibn Khalifa — Mitsubishi Pajero — total: 3:50:49.
- 3) Naser Al Atiya — Nissan Patrol — total: 3:55:29.
- 4) Mohammad Al Manai — Nissan Patrol — total: 4:02:04.
- 5) Sheikh Hamad Al Thani — Nissan Patrol — total: 4:08:25.
- 6) Haidham Al Mufri — Range Rover — 4:34:58.
- 7) Abd Hamzeh — Suzuki AA 33 — total: 6:11:15.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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THE OBLIGATORY FALSECARD
North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 6 4 2
♥ K Q 9 8
♦ K 8 6
♣ 3 2

WEST
♠ K 9 5
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 7 5 4
♣ K 9 7 6

EAST
♠ Q J 3
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ J 2
♣ J 10 8 5

SOUTH
♠ A 10 8
♥ A 10 5 4
♦ A Q 3
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:
North East South West
3 Pass 2 NT Pass
3 Pass 3 NT Pass
4 Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠
Among our least favorite partners are habitual falsecarders. On defense, every hand becomes an adventure because we cannot trust any card partner plays. However, there are some situations where a defensive falsecard cannot hurt; indeed, it might even be mandatory to protect a holding. This example is from last year's World Team Championship.

With two four-card majors, North routinely checked for a 4-4 fit over partner's two-no-trump opening bid. When the heart fit was

located, North opted for the suit contract because of his ruffing value in clubs.

West's normal lead of the ten of diamonds was taken in the closed hand and declarer led a trump to the queen. West produced the six and, had East routinely followed with the deuce, declarer would probably have continued with the king of hearts since, if both cards were honest, West's six was more likely to be a singleton. However, East made the obligatory falsecard of the seven!

Declarer knew one of his opponents was trying to pull a fast one, but he had no idea which. In any event, he elected to continue with a heart to the ace and as a result lost a trump trick in addition to two spades and a club.

Despite East's excellent defense, declarer should not have committed himself in trumps until he knew the fate of the club finesse. If it fails, he needs to ruff a club on the board and will not be able to pick up the trumps if West started with four unless declarer takes a deep position. Therefore, he should have led a club to the queen at trick three.

When West wins the king, declarer takes any return, ruffs a club in dummy and the trump position clarifies itself when the king of trumps is cashed.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 28, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have all kinds of interesting and sane ways to get your financial and practical interests on a sound plane today. Be sure not to alienate others by being overly concerned with your own interests.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look into every written source whereby you can gain valuable suggestions for adding to your present benefits, then look at monetary needs required.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your financial plans can be maturing in a highly satisfactory manner now but you should be sure you have thought out exactly what you are striving for.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You know pretty much what you want of a personal nature now and what you need is the private support and information required to gain these ends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Busy yourself seeing good companions who understand your personal goals and in cueing them in on how they can best aid your advancement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your basic urges now are in direction of credit, career and/or civic interests but if you are to obtain them it is necessary to get help from an active group.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You would be wise to go

straight to the most influential persons who you can contact now and in a charming manner let them know of your worldly ambitions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Many new ideas come to you and especially what you can do to handle a long time obligation in the most efficient and skillful manner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your efforts now in doing a good job at whatever your occupation can be the means by which you impress bigwigs and the general public in your favour.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the day to talk out with those who have some worldly position how you want your work efforts to trend in the days ahead then follow their advice.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now find that a pleasant and understanding attitude to others is almost bound to gain you the prosperous issue to your current duties.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some splendid ideas for being more successful at your special creative aptitude and don't let negative family members deter your putting them in motion.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Discussion at home where you and family will go on trip or jaunt are necessary of there is to be accord about anticipated vacation.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

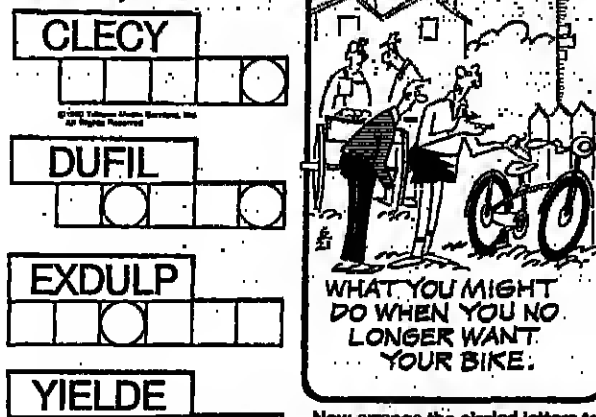
HARRIS-6-22



"The dentist had to put 3 shots of novocaine in my hip before he could extract my wallet."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



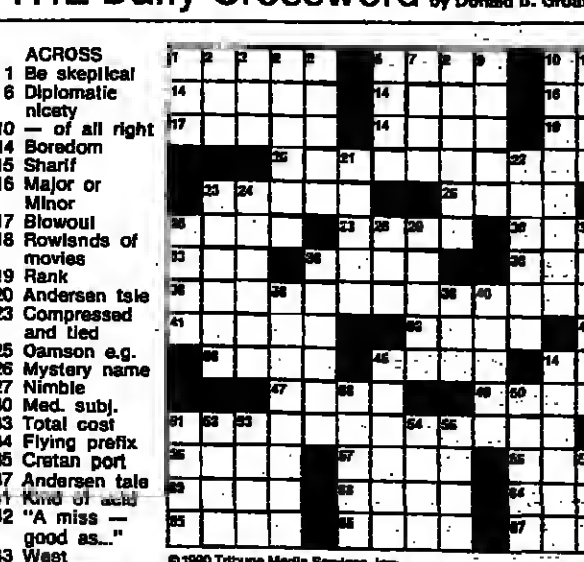
Now arrange the circled letters to form the correct answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O" IT

Yesterday's Jumble: GNARL FORUM HECTIC BRIDGE
Answer: Hands out money "right and left," but doesn't know how to spend it — RIGHT

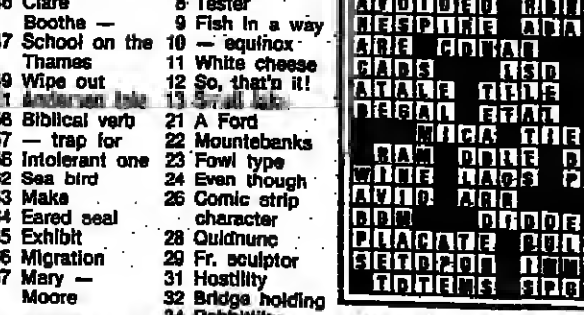
THE Daily Crossword

by Donald B. Groat



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



1. Of all right
2. Sharp
3. Major or minor
4. Blatant
5. Rowdiness
6. Rank
7. Anderson Isle
8. Mashed and tied
9. Oamson e.g.
10. Mystery name
11. Med. subj.
12. Total cost
13. Flying prefix
14. Crested port
15. Andersen tale
16. Kind of acid
17. "A miss — good as..."
18. Vest
19. Alaskan island
20. Chemical compound
21. Clave
22. Boogie —
23. School on the 10
24. Thames
25. Wipe out
26. Assuredly
27. Biblical verb
28. Trap for
29. Intolerant one
30. Sea bird
31. Mako
32. Sated seal
33. Exhibit
34. Migration
35. Mary —
36. Moore
37. US author
38. Release
39. WWII gp.
40. Biblical spy
41. Take the fancy of
42. Looseness
43. Outfits
44. Church word
45. Fester
46. Fish in a way
47. Equinox
48. White cheese
49. So, that's it!
50. Small lake
51. Mountebanks
52. Fowl type
53. Even though
54. Comic strip
55. Character
56. Guldunne
57. Fr. sculptor
58. Hostility
59. Bridge holding
60. Rabbitlike rodent
61. US author
62. Release
63. WWII gp.
64. Biblical spy
65. Take the fancy of
66. Looseness
67. Beginning
68. Manmade man
69. Sine
70. Leger
71. Lab burner
72. Raison d'
73. Class
74. Lie-mess
75. Mine stuff
76. Odor's gen

World trade talks jeopardised by ill will

By Nelson Graves
Reuters

GENEVA — World trading nations are beginning to worry that deep disagreements and a tight agenda may keep them from finishing the most ambitious round of trade talks in history.

After four days of fruitless talks this week, the head of the 96-member GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) global trade body told negotiators to stop playing "hide-and-seek" and get down to serious work.

But, with only 18 weeks left before a December deadline, delegates are wondering openly if they will be able to meet the far-reaching goals they set for themselves when they launched the Uruguay Round with fanfare almost four years ago.

"There is one danger — discouragement — because of the amount of work which has still to be done and because, we have to admit it, we are behind schedule," chief European Community (EC) negotiator

Hugo Paemen said after the latest session of talks ended Thursday.

"We have to be pessimistic in our heads, but optimistic in our hearts," he said.

At stake in the Uruguay Round, the eighth round of world trade talks since the GATT was created in 1948, is the future of the \$3 trillion global trading system.

Trade ministers from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade launched the round in Uruguay in September 1986, saying border barriers to goods and unfair subsidies were stifling world commerce.

Earlier trade rounds had concentrated on lowering tariffs on manufactured goods and beefing up the GATT's powers.

But the trade body was given little authority to police farm policies. It was also blamed for surplus stocks and low prices, and no rules were written to cover burgeoning trade in services such as banking, telecommunications and travel — worth about \$600 billion a

year.

Textile trade

Trading nations also decided it was time to ease restrictions on textile trade, of crucial importance to poor countries, and write rules against piracy of intellectual property like copyrights and trademarks, a goal of industrialised countries.

The first clear sign the round was in trouble came at a mid-term review in December 1988, in Montreal. The talks came to a standstill when the United States and the EC failed to narrow gaping differences over agricultural reform.

Washington has sought an end to farm subsidies, while the EC, with five times as many farmers, has resisted cuts.

The two sides papered over their disagreement in April of last year, only to have the row flare up again this year. The dispute dominated this month's summit meeting of the heads of the seven largest in-

dustrialised countries, who called for a cease-fire in agriculture.

The goodwill at the Houston summit spilled over to this week's meeting, and Washington and Brussels quickly endorsed a common reform plan outlining potential cuts in farm spending.

But, to an unexpected turn of events, a decision by U.S. and EC delegates to put off further negotiations on agriculture until late August had a chilling effect in other areas.

The absence of serious bargaining in Geneva incensed delegates from developing countries and smaller European states, who were looking for concrete steps.

Formal complaint

Lodging a formal complaint on behalf of developing countries, head Brazilian negotiator Rubens Ricupero blamed the rich countries for sidestepping the issues and warned the GATT steering committee that the round was in trouble.

U.S. and EC officials dismissed Ricupero's charging, saying developing countries were posturing.

Officials agreed that simmering ill will, slow progress and the fast-approaching December deadline have contributed to what one delegate called a sense of panic.

Worried by the lack of progress, GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel announced strict negotiating deadlines. Even as he did so, U.S. and EC delegates were haggling over the translation of three words in the farm reform proposal.

Head U.S. negotiator Julius Katz warned delegates that the U.S. congress would not accept a watered down agreement. And, he said, the December deadline will not be extended for fear Congress will deny the U.S. administration negotiating power.

Asked if a GATT deal would be clinched in December, U.S. negotiator Warren Lavorel said: "It's going to be tight."

Unrest hits Soviet farms

MOSCOW (R) — Labour unrest in the Soviet Union has spread to the farms where the first peasant's strike committees have been formed, the Communist Party daily Pravda reported Friday.

Under the front-page headline "peasants' revolt?", it said collective farms in Kostroma region northeast of Moscow were threatening to withhold produce as a bargaining cootter with the cities.

In return they wanted more fuel, machinery and parts, and extra labour at reasonable prices for the current harvest.

"Tell me how much longer were we supposed to put up with it? we got fed up," Leonid Shamkov, head of a collective farm in Kostroma, told Pravda.

"We will not be going on strike in the fields and farms. But we are masters of our produce. That is a powerful lever and in extreme circumstances we will use it."

Strikes have swept different

sectors of Soviet industry over the past two years as President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms took the lid off worker discontent.

The enormous farming sector, for decades a byword for over-manning, under-investment, hidebound management and general backwardness, has been largely free of organised protest.

This year's look like a bumper crop. The media, however, has been full of reports, acknowledged by the government, of desperate shortages of fuel, trucks, tractors, spare parts and labour that seriously jeopardise prospects of realising its potential.

Pravda said Kostroma was not the only place in the countryside flexing muscles for a better deal from the cities.

Farmers took similar action in Karaganda in Kazakhstan, while in Perm, on the western slopes of the Ural mountains, the local agricultural leadership took up

the cause. In Michurin, southeast of Moscow, it was the regional council. "Moreover, they did it in the fiercest way: Unless the city people help to the vegetable fields, they will not get a single gram of food."

Factories and offices traditionally sent large squads of workers to help in the fields at harvest time at cheap rates. This year things were different.

Shamkov cited a train depot at Bui, north of Kostroma town, which demanded 75 per cent above the standard work rate. "The collective-farmers clasped their heads, only bankruptcy comes from that sort of help."

When spare parts were available, suppliers demanded food in exchange.

"You in Moscow, in my opinion, will not recognise the state of affairs in the villages, in agriculture," he said. "The countryside has been forced to its knees, it is left to tackle the harvest all by itself."

De Beers, Soviet Union sign five-year agreement

LONDON (AP) — De Beers tightened its grip on the global diamond market Wednesday with an exclusive five-year deal to sell the Soviet Union's rough diamond output, which could amount to a total of more than \$5 billion.

The financially strained Soviet Union, among the world's biggest gem diamond producers, reached the deal with De Beers because it wanted to sell a large stockpile of diamonds without disrupting the stable diamond market, De Beers said.

The Soviet Union had refused to deal directly with the South African company because of apartheid, but now is willing to openly do business with De Beers' new Swiss arm, De Beers Centenary AG.

"It certainly made it easier, yes," De Beers spokesman Roger van Eeghen said.

South Africa-based De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited established the publicly-held Swiss company in May to head up the non-South African businesses of the De Beers Company, which is controlled by the wealthy Oppenheimer family of South Africa.

De Beers Centenary said in a

statement released in Lucerne, Switzerland, and made available in London that it reached the agreement with Glavalmazoloto of the USSR for the exclusive export and sale of the Soviet Union's diamond production.

Glavalmazoloto is the main administration for precious metals and diamonds under the Soviet Union's Council of Ministers, De Beers said.

It said its Luxembourg-based subsidiary, Centenary Holdings SA, has agreed to make a secured advance of \$1 billion to Glavalmazoloto against future diamond deliveries. Repayment would be made over five years beginning in November, it said.

The Soviet diamond stockpile will be held at De Beers' London-based marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation, as collateral for the \$1-billion advance, De Beers said.

The organisation, a 57-year-old cartel, has the financial resources to hold large stocks of diamonds, which is how it keeps the market stable.

Although De Beers said it had no direct contact with the Soviet Union since 1963, diamond experts say De Beers already sells

most of the Soviet Union's west-bound diamonds.

"We have not had an official agreement with the Russians. In the past, obviously, being major distributors of rough (diamonds), Russian diamonds have found their way into the rough," van Eeghen said. "It came through other sources, other channels."

All the world's major diamond producers, including Botswana, Australia, Tanzania, Zaire and Namibia, have sales contracts with De Beers Centenary. The Central Selling Organisation, as a result, markets 80 per cent of the world's rough diamond production of some 100 million carats.

The organisation had sales of \$4.09 billion last year.

De Beers must renegotiate several key contracts this year, which experts have said might loosen its tight grip on the market.

Nicholas Oppenheimer, deputy chairman of De Beers Centenary, said in the statement: "This historic contract between the Soviet Union's diamond industry and De Beers Centenary is clearly in the interests of the diamond trade in its widest sense."

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet Union, Israel sign trade pact

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and the Soviet Union agreed Friday to establish trade ties despite not having full diplomatic relations, Israeli officials said. "We signed an agreement to establish economic relations. We will exchange official representatives in the form of trade offices in Tel Aviv and Moscow," said Dan Gilerman, president of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce. He said Soviet officials were already in Tel Aviv to open an office of the Soviet chamber of commerce. Israeli officials will travel to Moscow next month, he said. The agreement was signed with the visiting president of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Malkevitch, the most senior Soviet trade official to visit Israel since Moscow severed ties over the 1967 Middle East war. Malkevitch met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday and Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai Wednesday. Malkevitch said trade between the Soviet Union and Israel could top \$1 billion in four years. Direct trade now stands at less than \$10 million a year.

Indebted nations' load eases

BASLE (R) — The sum owed by the world's most indebted nations fell slightly in the second half of last year, but Eastern Europe's struggling economies soaked up more foreign capital, figures published on Friday showed. The cumulative debt of all developing countries swelled \$12.3 billion to \$729.9 billion in the period under review, according to the data compiled jointly by the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements and the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Two key categories of foreign debt in 15 heavily indebted countries shrank by \$5.3 billion in the second half of 1989 to stand at \$29.9 billion after falling \$14.3 billion in the first half. These so-called "Baker countries" — a name coined as a result of a debt reduction plan devised by James Baker, former treasury secretary and now secretary of state in the U.S. administration — have had to face Western banks less willing to extend new loans.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, July 26, 1990
Central Bank official rates

| | Buy | Sell | French franc | 121.7 | 122.4 |
|----------------|--------|--------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| U.S. dollar | 662.0 | 666.0 | Japanese yen (for 100) | 441.2 | 443.8 |
| Pound Sterling | 1197.6 | 1204.8 | Dutch guilder | 361.8 | 364.0 |
| Deutschmark | 407.7 | 410.1 | Swedish crown | 112.0 | 112.7 |
| Swiss franc | 479.9 | 482.8 | Italian lira (for 100) | 35.7 | 36.0 |
| | | | Belgian franc (for 10) | 198.4 | 199.6 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| One Sterling | 1.8220/30 | U.S. dollar | |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1535/45 | Canadian dollar | |
| | 1.6225/30 | Deutschmarks | |
| | 1.8290/8300 | Dutch guilders | |
| | 1.3730/40 | Swiss francs | |
| | 33.38/43 | Belgian francs | |
| | 5.4380/4430 | French francs | |
| | 1188/1189 | Italian lire | |
| | 150.65/75 | Japanese yen | |
| | 5.9050/9100 | Swedish crowns | |
| | 6.2525/75 | Norwegian crowns | |
| | 6.1730/80 | Danish crowns | |
| One ounce of gold | 368.70/369.10 | U.S. dollars | |

U.S. economy posts weak growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy, continuing to skirt along the edges of a recession, posted weak growth at an annual rate of just 1.2 per cent from April through June, the government reported Friday.

The Commerce Department said that the gross national product (GNP), the country's total output of goods and services, was propped up entirely in the second quarter by a big buildup in business inventories.

Other major components of the economy, from consumer spending to business investment and housing construction, suffered declines during the quarter. The 1.2 per cent GNP increase in the second quarter followed a revised 1.7 per cent increase in the first quarter and a barely discernible 0.3 per cent advance in the October-December period last year.

This string of weak quarterly growth rates is raising concerns over whether the current economic expansion, which has lasted a peacetime record of almost eight years, is in danger of toppling into a recession.

Today's report offered little comfort on that score, given the fact that the only strength came in the restocking of store shelves and backlogs.

In the face of falling consumer demand, those higher inventories could force production cutbacks and job layoffs in the second half of the year, one of the classic ways a recession begins.

In one encouraging sign, inflation slowed markedly in the second quarter, with a GNP price measure dropping to an annual rate of increase of 3.9 per cent.

Algeria wins French backing

PARIS (R) — Algerian Finance Minister Gbazi Hidouci improved the climate for greater cooperation by France with its former colony when he visited Paris this week, French officials and businessmen said.

The French employers' body, the CNPF, said companies were ready to help the liberalisation of the Algerian economy after being forbidden to invest in the country for two decades.

Finance Minister Pierre Breguoy said France would provide guarantees for a loan that Algeria was seeking from banks to refinance part of its heavy foreign debt burden.

Algeria won no new aid commitments from France, but the two countries renewed financial accords signed last year.

Algerian officials said commercial and political disagreements had blocked the disbursement of some of the aid.

"Seven billion francs (\$1.3 billion) was allocated in 1989, and there remained two billion (\$263 million), including 800 million francs (\$145 million) of balance of payments support. It was necessary to unfreeze that, which has been done," an Algerian embassy official said.

According to the Algerian official, Breguoy had blocked the funds because some of the credits disbursed during 1989 had been

used to buy non-French goods.

The CNPF official said the commercial disputes involved unpaid bills, some dating back four or five years.

Hidouci said at a news conference this week that a row with French builder Bouygues involving around one billion francs (\$180 million) of debts would be settled by the end of August, and other disputes were well on the way to being resolved.

French business now seems prepared to play its part in the reforms taking Algeria closer to a market economy.

"The present government is putting a lot of distance between itself and the FLN state," the CNPF official said. The National Liberation Front (FLN) has controlled Algeria since independence in 1962, including the state export and distribution networks.

The CNPF official singled out the "resistance to change of these old structures" as a drawback to investment and trade.

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Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Dureld Lahham /
Madeline Tabar
in
KAFROUN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

THEY LIVE

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

Adel Imam, Yusra
in
The Devil's Island

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam, Yusra
in
The Devil's Island

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.

Armenian militia chief says no surrender to Gorbachev

MOSCOW (R) — The commander of Armenia's main outlaw paramilitary group said Friday he would defy President Mikhail Gorbachev's order to disband in 15 days and warned of bloodshed if Soviet troops tried to enforce it.

"It is better to die than betray your people," Razmik Vasilyan, commander of the Armenian National Army (ANA), said.

"If they send in troops, they will cause a huge outcry. The whole republic will rise up. This would end in bloodshed which will serve neither us nor Moscow," he told Reuters in a telephone interview from the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

Vasilyan called for talks with Soviet officials to defuse tension in the troubled southern republic where hundreds of people have been killed in the past two years in clashes between ethnic Armenians and Azeris from neighbouring Azerbaijan.

But he said his paramilitary group was vital to protect Armenians in the conflict over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan.

"We have nothing against

Soviet power," Vasilyan said. "We want only to protect our people."

"We are ready to take the peaceful path, to sit down at the negotiating table with the Soviet authorities, with the Azeris, with anyone interested," he added.

Gorbachev issued a decree Wednesday threatening to use force if illegal armed groups did not yield their weapons and disband in 15 days. If local authorities refused to act against the groups, army and Interior Ministry troops would be sent in.

Vasilyan commands the biggest of about four main illegal paramilitary groups. His force, based around Yerevan and in remote mountain country, is estimated by the Soviet press to number between 30,000 and 140,000 men.

Interior Ministry (MVD) troops had appealed to Gorbachev in recent weeks to allow them to act against the groups, accusing local authorities of allowing them to operate openly. Vasilyan said he did not think local authorities would take action against the ANA.

Asked about reports in the Communist Party newspaper

Pravda Friday that the ANA controlled huge arsenals including rockets, helicopters and submachine-guns, Vasilyan said:

"The arms we have, it's enough to make you cry. Most of our armoury consists of hunting rifles taken from the MVD, plus about a hundred training rifles. The army seized the others (rockets and helicopters) a long time ago."

"The decree covers groups throughout the country, but has special significance in Armenia where dozens have been killed in clashes between guerrillas and troops in recent months."

Soviet troops in Armenia were reinforced two years ago when the ethnic fighting erupted. But in recent months militant Armenian nationalist paramilitary groups have turned their guns on Soviet troops they accuse of supporting the Azeris.

In late May, about 30 people were killed in shooting between troops and armed groups in Yerevan.

Use of armed forces against nationalist militants has led to bloodshed in the past.

Massacre revives fears of Khmer Rouge savagery

PHNOM PENH (R) — Schoolboy Ly Marin was riding on the roof of the train with gifts of rice and chickens for a brother living in the Cambodian capital when Khmer Rouge mines blew the train in half.

"Small boys like me get to travel for free up there," the 13-year-old said.

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas struck in the early afternoon as the ancient French-built locomotive chugged through Kompong Chhnang province 60 kilometres west of its destination.

Their mine blasts were a brutal overtone to the July 15 massacre that ranks among the worst atrocities in the 11-year conflict.

Guerrillas hidden in the jungle alongside the tracks poured rocket and machinegun fire into the five derailed carriages, according to accounts from four survivors interviewed in Phnom Penh's April 17 hospital and doctors and relief workers.

In the two hours that followed the attack, the Khmer Rouge guerrillas shot wounded passengers as they lay on the ground, robbed them of money, jewellery and goods, and threw grenades into carriages, the survivors said.

Ly Marin is now lying on a cot in the filthy, fetid hospital, his left arm amputated at the elbow. Thrown from the train, his arm ripped by shrapnel, he hid terrified behind a tree until it was over. Then he walked with other survivors to the nearest station, at Mnok.

"It was painful but I was so scared I had to keep up," he said through an interpreter.

Doctors have still not told him his mother was killed.

Defence Minister General Tie Banh said 53 men, women and children were killed and 100 wounded in the July 15 massacre. Independent sources say the figure does not appear to be exaggerated.

Joelle Goire, a Belgian physiotherapist at the April 17 Hospital, said 46 people were brought there with fractures, shrapnel and bullet wounds. More were taken to other hospitals.



Khmer Rouge guerrillas sit on a pile of captured government artillery

"Many of the seriously wounded died overnight in Kompong Chhnang hospital," she said.

The hospitals, denied humanitarian aid by Western governments who do not recognise the Cambodian government, struggled to cope.

"We have shortages of medicine, plasma, blood transfusion equipment, antibiotics," Goire said.

The Communist Khmer Rouge, fighting to regain the power they lost in 1979, have probed deeper into the Cambodian interior in recent months. They claim to be winning the support of the peasants, treating them well and saying they are fighting a government subservient to the traditional enemy, Vietnam.

The train massacre is thought to be the worst incident of its kind in the war. But it was not unique, relief workers and Cambodian military officials say.

An ambush on a train near the coastal town of Kompot on July 1

killed at least 13 people, officials say.

The train assaulted on July 15 was heading east along the vital but vulnerable line from Battambang, a city near the Thai border, to the capital. It was packed with holidaying students and peasants going to market.

No train had left Battambang for eight days because of the security situation, said farmer and part-time militiaman Khim Mon.

Passengers were piled onto flat trucks pushed in front of the engine to catch mines. The explosions severed the train after the fifth carriage passed and the engine steamed off as guerrillas tried to stop it, Eng Yeth, the chief state railway official on the train, said.

Eng Yeth said the 40 militiamen on the train put up a fight, but Khim Mon said most of them eventually fled.

Eng Yeth stripped out of his uniform and lay on the ground to avoid being shot when the looting began. "I heard the Khmer Rouge, say we were travelling on a Vietnamese train," he said.

He said he saw one militiaman who had taken off his uniform summarily shot.

Khim Mon said he saw four wounded people shot dead after being robbed of watches and bracelets. The Khmer Rouge even took away motorbikes, he said.

Onn Day, a 34-year-old businessman, was pinned by her leg under a carriage. She said the guerrillas took 5,000 riel (\$100) and some gold from her purse.

"I asked them to help me and they said I should lie there and be happy," she said in the hospital. She was freed after government troops reached the scene and the Khmer Rouge fled.

She collapsed in tears when asked about her experiences under the Khmer Rouge's 1975-79 rule. Her parents and a brother and sister were killed, she sobbed.

S. Africa makes more arrests in connection with alleged plot

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — More arrests of African National Congress (ANC) and Communist activists are expected in connection with an alleged plot to seize power if talks fail, South Africa's police chief said Friday.

Gen. Johan Van Der Merwe said the detention of a number of senior ANC and South African Communist Party militants in recent days had yielded considerable evidence of a conspiracy.

He told the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. that more arrests "were likely," but gave no details.

Also Friday, Business Day newspaper reported President F.W. de Klerk told ANC leader Nelson Mandela that Joe Slovo,

leader of the South African Communist Party, must be dropped from talks with the government next week.

The independent newspaper, quoting senior government sources, said De Klerk insisted Slovo be dropped from the ANC delegation because of police evidence the Communists were ready to use violence to gain power.

"There is no plot as far as we're concerned," Mandela said during an appearance at a nursery school in the township of Soweto. He met Thursday with De Klerk to discuss the allegations, and said Friday he would meet again with the president on Aug. 1.

The ANC is scheduled to hold an executive meeting July 30.

Reports said De Klerk presented police evidence of a Communist conspiracy to Mandela in their two-hour meeting Thursday. Mandela indicated that neither man had been convinced by the other's arguments.

In other developments Friday, police said four blocks had been killed in separate incidents of black factional violence during the past 24 hours. The report gave no details.

Police said they could not confirm local press reports that a woman was killed and 29 people hurt Thursday when armed men attacked a train near Johannesburg. Some reports said the attackers were from Inkatha, the conservative Zulu political movement.

Tamil rebels attack 2 military camps in north

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan Tamil separatist rebels attacked two seaside military camps in the north with small arms and mortar fire and were repulsed by naval gunboats, military officers said Friday.

One soldier and several rebels were injured in attacks on the Kankasanturai army and navy camps at the northern tip of the Indian Ocean island, the military said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas, fighting for a separate homeland in the northeast for the Tamil minority, retreated after they were pounded with shells from naval gunboats.

In Batticaloa in the east, one soldier was killed and six wounded when a patrol was attacked by rebels armed with mortars and automatic weapons, military sources said.

Several rebels were killed in the army's mopping up operations in the east, where authorities said the guerrillas were on the run in dense, tropical jungle.

Sri Lanka's top general said Thursday he estimated 2,000

Tamil rebels have been killed in six weeks of fighting with government troops.

General Cyril Ranatunga, the Defence Ministry secretary, said 785 Tigers were confirmed killed since the rebels launched an offensive in the north and east on June 11, ending 14 months of peace talks with the government.

Nearly 500 security force members have been killed, he said.

The rebels, confronted by troops advancing on their northern stronghold, were trying to divert the attention of security forces by attacking villagers of the Sinhalese majority community, one military officer said.

Since Tuesday, the Tigers have killed 42 Sinhalese villagers in three brutal attacks, the military said.

Security in some villages was being strengthened with more armed guards and troop patrols, a government statement said.

Officials have been unable to give civilian casualty figures. The Tigers said 2,000 Tamil civilians have died as a result of what they called atrocities by soldiers.

Koreans abandon talks on crossing border

SEOUL (R) — A North Korean delegation knocked on South Korea's door for a second day Friday but neither side could find the key.

The five-member delegation finally abandoned its attempt to cross to the South to meet with the Chosunminyon dissident coalition in Seoul, and Pyongyang warned darkly that the incident could adversely affect inter-Korean relations.

Just a day before, North and South Korea had agreed to hold historic meetings between their prime ministers in September and October.

It would be the highest-level contact between the Koreas ever held, and many diplomats and analysts believe it could help ease tensions on the Korean peninsula, where hostile armies glare at each other across a heavily fortified border.

The North Korean delegation, accompanied by 10 reporters, intended to cross to the South at the border village of Panmunjom for the meeting to discuss a unification rally next month.

But negotiations between North and South Korean officials at Panmunjom, the only crossing point along the 250-kilometre long demilitarised zone separating the two countries, foundered on procedural disputes.

"The southern side's insincerity will affect the North-South relationship unfavourably and leave worrisome consequences," a North Korean official told South Korean counterparts at Panmunjom.

Pyeongyang castigated Seoul for failing to accept "a rational compromise" on transport and accommodation. Seoul said the delegation reneged on an earlier agreement by liaison officers to accept their conditions imposed for safety reasons.

The meeting in question began Friday morning, minus the North Koreans, at a private conference centre in northern Seoul.

The rally, proposed by Chosunminyon, and endorsed by both sides, aims to bring together elements of the worldwide Korean National Community to Panmunjom on Aug. 15, Korean Independence Day.

About two dozen Chosunminyon members gathered at a car-park on Friday at the southern end of the Imjin River Bridge.

U.S. eases stand slightly on issue of Vietnamese boat people

JAKARTA (R) — The United States said Friday it would try to ease the problem of Vietnamese boat people pouring into South East Asia by looking for ways to send back more voluntarily.

"While we continue to oppose involuntary repatriation, we are willing to support UNHCR's (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) suggestion for a new category of returnees—those who do not object," U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said.

He was speaking at the start of two days of talks, so far dominated by Indonesian issues, with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its major trade and regional partners — Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the European Community, Japan and the United States.

Refugees are now either classified as political and given asylum in the West or as economic migrants who, under a year-old international pact, must return to Vietnam. Both Hanoi and Washington have refused to agree to forcible repatriation.

"The refugee problem is one which fundamentally stems from oppression in Vietnam," said a

senior U.S. official, explaining his government's stand.

He said he did not know how many of the more than 120,000 boat people around Asia would fall into the "no objection" category outlined by Baker.

Foreign ministers of ASEAN — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — attacked Washington earlier this week for its refugee policy and threatened to stop offering temporary asylum if U.S. policy did not change.

"I think the Americans have got a mental blockage," said one ASEAN diplomat. "I know they've got their domestic problems but so have we. We've got camps of refugees on our borders."

On the question of Cambodia, the two sides appeared to have reduced their differences after Washington ruffled ASEAN feathers by abruptly announcing last week it would stop support for the guerrilla coalition that is trying to overthrow the Phnom Penh government installed by Vietnam 11 years ago.

U.S. officials said one aim of the move was to exclude the radical Khmer Rouge, who

dominate the guerrilla coalition.

"It's clear that on the basic objectives (in Cambodia) and on major goals we remain on the same track... on the tactics there is a different perception," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said.

Focus has increasingly centred on the need for a Supreme National Council of prominent Cambodians to lead the country to free elections, and which could hold the United Nations seat now occupied by the guerrilla coalition.

The U.S. official would not speculate on who might be an acceptable member of the council.

"What clearly doesn't fit in is those trying to shoot their way into power," he said, apparently referring to the militarily powerful Khmer Rouge, blamed for the deaths of one million Cambodians during their 1975-79 rule.

Several delegates agreed international efforts needed to resume soon to persuade the warring factions to agree on a council. One dismissed chances of success at proposed talks among the factions next week in Paris.

Philippine gunmen kill 3 in Manila

MANILA (Agencies) — Gunmen wearing military fatigues killed the Filipino president of a Singapore construction firm and two companions Friday during a daylight ambush in the heart of the city.

Separately, a human rights lawyers' group denounced a Supreme Court ruling allowing the military and police to arrest suspected members of rebel organisations without a warrant.

In the Manila shooting, police identified the victims as businessman Carlos Liao, president of Jurong Engineering (Philippines) Inc., his police escort, Patrolman 1st Class Sergio Abetaria, and driver Felix Agueza.

Police Cpl. Rey Cristobal said unknown assailants riding in a car and a jeep cut off Liao's white Mercedes Benz on a commercial street.

At least two of the gunmen jumped from the jeep and sprayed the victims with semi-automatic gun fire at close range, Cristobal said. The victims died at the scene, and their assailants fled in the car and jeep, Cristobal said.

The military Friday reported that a grenade exploded during a village dance Wednesday in the southern Philippines, killing four people and wounding 17 others.

Lt.-Col. Ruben Cabaglit, Philippine Constabulary provincial commander, said the incident took place in a village on the outskirts of San Fernando town in Bukidnon province, about 880 kilometres south east of Manila.

Cabaglit said the villagers, all members of the Matigalingan tribe, were dancing to celebrate a tribal feast when the explosion took place.

The report did not say whether the grenade was thrown by an unidentified assailant or was accidentally dropped by one of those attending the dance, Cabaglit said.

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos accused politicians Friday of stealing relief goods intended for victims of the devastating July 16 quake that killed at least 1,600 people in the Philippines.

Local politicians "intercepted relief goods for distribution to their bailiwicks, even if they were unaffected" by the quake, Ramos told reporters.

The quake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter Scale, devastated large areas of the northern Philippines. More than 3,000 people were injured and at least 1,000 were missing in the quake, the worst to hit the Philippines in the past 14 years.

Cher's sudden fear of flying delays tour

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — Cher's sudden fear of flying is delaying her concert tour. It started when her chartered U.S. air plane developed engine trouble and had to make an emergency landing in New Jersey. The incident shook Cher up and she refused to fly, preferring to travel by train to Boston and then by bus to Halifax, promoter Jack Livingstone said Thursday. Her sold-out concert, originally scheduled for Wednesday night in Halifax has been rescheduled for Friday. Thursday's planned show in Moncton, New Brunswick, has been moved to Saturday night, and a Saturday concert at Old Orchard Beach, Maine, has been moved to Sunday. Fans who can't make the rescheduled concerts will get their money back.

U.S. lieutenant accused of raping woman officer

ROTA, Spain (R) — The U.S. Navy has begun a court martial at its naval base in southern Spain of a lieutenant accused of raping a woman officer on board ship.

Lieutenant Robin Brown faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, the loss of all military pay and allowances and dismissal from the military if found guilty.

The navy chose a woman officer to "help defend Brown at the hearing at the Rota U.S. Navy Base, where the first witnesses were due to appear Wednesday. Navy spokeswoman Lieutenant Paul Weishaupt said Brown, from Rawlins, Wyoming, was alleged to have raped the officer in her cabin on the U.S. ammunition ship San Jacinto on April 4 when the ship was in the Spanish port of Cartagena.

Weishaupt said navy legal officers recalled similar cases but had not been able to track them down in records. The woman, whose name was withheld, was one of 34 women assigned to the ship, which has a crew of 350.

Row over baring all erupts in French topless resort

SAINT-TROPEZ, France (R) — The French resort that gave the world topless bathing is in a rather over official attempts to force nude bathers to cover up or face a small fine. Saint-Tropez Mayor Alain Spada sought to cool down the summer-time row in an interview with Reuters, admitting he had taken off his swimming trunks in the past. "I have already sworn without trunks, especially for a midnight dip or in a creek. It's very nice," he said. But the mayor of France's most prestigious resort — made famous by its best-known resident, former movie sex symbol Brigitte Bardot — said police were trying to crack down on exhibitionists flaunting themselves on family beaches.

Spada has been accused of puritanism since announcing this month that nude bathers would be fined 75 francs (\$13) — half the price of a cheap bikini — if caught by police. "It's not a question of declaring war against nudists," said Spada, adding that the municipal by-law was aimed "purely at people whom we have been informed are practising exhibitionists."

New York outlaws dwarf tossing

ALBANY, New York (R) — New York state has officially outlawed dwarf tossing and dwarf bowling, calling the Australian "sports" dehumanising to the entire dwarf population. There were no concrete proposals to establish such activities in the state, but the governor and legislature wanted to make sure nothing like the events that have been reported to take place in Australian bars occur in New York. Opponents argued that the new law prevents consenting adults from utilising their special characteristics in the marketplace. But lawmaker Michael Bragman said Tuesday during debates across a room or using dwarfs in place of bowling balls was "dehumanising to the entire dwarf community."

In signing the ban, which takes effect on Aug. 19, Governor Mario Cuomo said the state "does not lightly impose limits on the activities of consenting participants." But he added that because "no court has yet found that prohibiting this activity violates any constitutionally protected interest," he would go along with the 193 legislators out of 194 who voted for the bill.